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Sexual assault risk report release delayed

Researchers stand by military base rankings despite Pentagon's misgivings

By TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is delaying release of a report by the nonpartisan Rand Corp. that rates the risk of sexual assault for military bases by military base, according to Defense Department officials.

The report relied on surveys of troops and data from 2014 that have underpinned several previous reports from Rand. It was supposed to have been released months ago.

Military officials say the report is being de-

layed over concerns about its methodology, while advocates for troops subjected to sexual assault say the Pentagon wants to kill the report because officials do not like its conclusions.

"Estimating risk for a large number of military installations worldwide requires some complex statistical analysis, and Rand's 2014 military survey was not designed with this task in mind," said Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "We are working with Rand to better understand and validate its statistical methods used."

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"This is the first time we are hearing this particular critique. ... The entire point of the study is to estimate the risk of sexual assault at installations."

Jeffrey Hiday
Rand Corp. spokesman



CAROLYN CASTER/AP

President Donald Trump, seen exiting Air Force One in Morristown, N.J., on Friday, has stirred doubt among NATO allies with recent comments hostile to the transatlantic partnership.

Trump's attacks weaken alliances

By DAVID S. CLOUD
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Deeply alarmed at President Donald Trump's attacks on NATO and the transatlantic relationship, European governments are rethinking their reliance on the U.S. as a strategic ally against Russia, but they are unlikely to make regional security arrangements independent of Washington.

Trump has forced the reassessment in recent days by calling the European Union a "foe," expressing reservations about defending other NATO members, and blasting Germany and other allies — comments he said were aimed at strengthening the U.S.-European alliance but that raised concerns across the continent.

"We can no longer fully rely on the White House," Heiko Mass, Germany's foreign minister, said on July 16, a position echoed by other senior European officials and diplomats. "The first clear

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That's a wrap

Marines complete Big Island phase of RIMPAC

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U.S. Marines march to the next range during the final of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii on July 15.

MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

MILITARY

Report: Military accused of burying results to save face

FROM FRONT PAGE

Jeffrey Hiday, a Rand spokesman, said researchers there stand by their report and its conclusions.

"This is the first time we are hearing this particular critique," Hiday said. "We have demonstrated that the 2014 data can be used to construct installation level estimates, and the results have cleared rigorous, independent peer review."

He noted that "the entire point of the study is to estimate the risk of sexual assault at installations." Don Christensen, an advocate for victims of sexual assault in the military, said that "it's disturbing the Pentagon would hire a reputable firm like Rand and then seek to bury the results because the brass know the numbers make them look bad."

Christensen, president of Protect Our Defenders and the former top prosecutor for the Air Force, added that "it would be nice if leadership was as concerned with finding solutions for the sexual assault crisis and holding offenders accountable as they are with manipulating data in an attempt to hide the scope of the problem."

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, the New York Democrat who has been critical of the Pentagon's response to sexual assault, called for the report's immediate release.

"Sen. Gillibrand has requested

that the Department of Defense release this Rand report, and our office is currently waiting on a response," said Alexandria Phillips, a spokeswoman for Gillibrand. "The Department of Defense needs to be fully transparent with the findings of the report and stop protecting the status quo that harms our servicemembers and protects predators."

The Pentagon continues to negotiate with the research organization before making it public, Gleason said. Hiday estimated it could be released by the end of August.

"The Department has been engaged with Rand for several months related to the methodology in the report in question," Gleason said. "We value the innovative approaches that Rand takes to cutting-edge research, and the methodology in the report has merit as a proof-of-concept."

"We are currently engaged with Rand to ensure the findings reflect methodology validated by the broader scientific community, and Rand is currently addressing our feedback."

In November, the Pentagon released a report based on its own data regarding allegations of sexual assault by installation for the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps. The largest bases and posts with the greatest concentrations of troops had the highest numbers of assaults, which range



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., shown with activists at the Supreme Court last month, has been critical of the Pentagon's response to sexual assault in the military.

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

'[I]t's disturbing the Pentagon would hire a reputable firm like Rand and then seek to bury the results because the brass know the numbers make them look bad.'

Don Christensen
president of Protect our Defenders

from groping to rape.

Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia had 270 sexual assault allegations in fiscal year 2016, the most recent reported. The Army's Fort Hood in Texas recorded 199 reports, the Marine Corps had 169 at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and the Air Force had 117 at Joint Base San Antonio Texas.

The military has struggled

to address sexual assault in its ranks. For the year ending Sept. 30, 2017, the military recorded 6,769 reports of sexual assault, an increase of nearly 10 percent from 2016, when there were 6,172.

Military officials often attribute the increased number of allegations to greater confidence among victims in the Pentagon's response to the crime.

Commander pleads guilty to dark web drug charge

By ALEX RIGGINS

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A Navy commander with 23 years of military service pleaded guilty to a drug charge Friday in San Diego federal court, admitting that he conspired to buy and sell ecstasy and other drugs on the dark web over at least an 18-month period that ended with his March arrest at his Hillcrest condo.

Adolph Garza, 54, faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000 when he's sentenced in December. He pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to conspiracy to distribute controlled substances by internet.

The San Diego reporter admitted using the dark web to make multiple purchases of ecstasy, ketamine, cocaine, amphetamine and other controlled substances over an 18-month period from August 2016 to March of this year.

Garza was arrested during a March 7 raid at his Hillcrest condo, according to Sherri Walker Hobson, an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California.

While serving the search warrant at Garza's residence, inspectors from the U.S. Postal Service and special agents from Homeland Security Investigations and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service seized ecstasy, cocaine, ketamine, amphetamine and other drugs. They also discovered sealers, packaging and mailing materials, including DVD cases that were used to conceal what was being shipped.

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PACIFIC

Trump frustrated over lack of progress on N. Korea

By JOHN HUDSON,
JOSH DAWSEY
AND CAROL D. LEONNIG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When he emerged from his summit with Kim Jong Un last month, President Donald Trump triumphantly declared that North Korea no longer posed a nuclear threat and that one of the world's most intractable geopolitical crises had been "largely solved."

But in the days and weeks since then, U.S. negotiators have faced stiff resistance from a North Korean team practiced in the art of delay and obfuscation.

Diplomats say the North Koreans have canceled follow-up meetings, demanded more money and failed to maintain basic communications, even as the once-isolated regime's engagements with China and South Korea flourish.

Meanwhile, a missile engine testing facility that Trump said would be destroyed remains intact, and U.S. intelligence officials say Pyongyang is working to conceal key aspects of its nuclear program.

The lack of immediate progress, though predicted by many analysts, has frustrated the president, who has fumed at his aides in private even as he publicly hails the success of the negotiations.

"Discussions are ongoing and they're going very well," Trump told reporters Tuesday.

The accounts of internal administration dynamics come from conversations with a half-dozen White House aides, State Department officials and diplomats, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

'Strong dose of reality'

Officials say Trump has been captivated by the nuclear talks, asking staffers for daily updates on the status of the negotiations. His frustration with the lack of progress has been coupled with irritation about the media coverage of the joint statement he signed on June 12 in Singapore, a document that contains no timeline or specifics on denuclearization but has reduced tensions between the two countries.

"Trump has been hit with a strong dose of reality of North Korea's negotiating style, which is always hard for Americans to understand," said Duyeon Kim, a Korea expert at the Center for a New American Security.

Trump's interest in the issue has put a particularly bright spotlight on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who has tried to wring concessions from his counterpart, Kim Jong Chol, a former spy chief viewed by the Trump administration as uncompromising and unable to negotiate outside the most explicit directives from Kim Jong Un.

A low point from the perspective of U.S. officials came during Pompeo's third visit to Pyongyang on July 6 when he pressed North Korean officials for details



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump shakes hands with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un on June 12 in Singapore. In private, Trump has expressed frustration over the lack of progress since their summit.

U.S. defense officials waiting for three hours before calling to cancel, the diplomats said. The North Koreans then asked for a future meeting with a higher-ranking military official.

The Trump administration has maintained a strong public show of support for the negotiations, even as North Korea denounced the United States as an easy way for North Korea to demonstrate its sincerity.

On Wednesday, Trump said he secured a commitment from Russia to "help" with the North Korea issue. "The process is moving along," he tweeted. "Big benefits and exciting future for North Korea at end of process!"

President bristles

But in recent meetings with his aides, Trump bristled about the lack of positive developments in the negotiations. And Friday at the United Nations, his ambassador, Nikki Haley, accused Russia of blocking efforts to discipline North Korea's illegal smuggling.

Trump and his senior team "haven't given up entirely" on the goal of full denuclearization, but they are worried, said one person familiar with the discussions.

Climbing down from earlier soaring rhetoric, Trump told CBS last week that "I'm in no real rush. I mean whatever it takes, it takes," he said.

That more patient approach stands in contrast to earlier Trump administration demands for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program within a year.

"Trump is too vested to walk away right now," said Victor Cha, a North Korea expert who the Trump administration nearly selected to be the next U.S. ambassador to Seoul. "At least until after the midterms."

U.S. officials lay some of the blame on Kim Jong Chol, who despite being North Korea's chief negotiator has consistently stonewalled discussions by saying he is not empowered to talk about an array of pertinent issues.

That dynamic drew the ire of U.S. officials in an early July meeting in Panmunjom when he refused to discuss the opening of a reliable communications channel or even specific goals of Pompeo's then-upcoming trip to Pyongyang, diplomats briefed on the meetings said.

The U.S. officials in the meeting, led by State Department official Sung Kim and CIA officer Andy Kim, wanted to discuss Pompeo's visit and make progress

on returning the fallen soldiers' remains. But Kim Jong Chol said he was authorized only to receive a letter Trump had written to Kim Jong Un.

When U.S. officials tried to raise substantive issues, Kim Jong Chol resisted and kept asking for the letter. Unable to make headway, the Americans eventually handed over the letter and ended the meeting after only an hour.

"[Kim] has a reputation for being extremely rude and aggressive," said Sung-Yoon Lee, a North Korea scholar at Tufts University.

New negotiator?

Kim Jong Chol's negotiating tactics so frustrated U.S. officials that several expressed hope that he would be replaced as top negotiator by Ri Yong Ho, the North's more agreeable minister of foreign affairs. The swap appeared possible because of the joint statement in Singapore, which explicitly named Pompeo as the top U.S. negotiator but referred to his counterpart only as a "relevant high-level DPRK official."

"I think there is a debate within North Korea over assigning Kim Jong Chol or Ri Yong Ho as the counterpart," said Cha, who is also a scholar at Georgetown University. "Ri knows the issues better and can speak perfect English. Kim is a former spy, not a negotiator."

In the absence of progress on denuclearization, the Trump administration is likely to focus on the war remains.

At a meeting in the demilitarized zone, the two sides agreed to recommence field operations to search for the remains of some 5,300 Americans still missing from the conflict in North Korea. Pompeo said last week that he believes the first sets would arrive in the United States "in the next couple weeks."

U.S. officials familiar with the discussions said the North pledged to return 55 sets of remains on July 27, the 65th anniversary of the signing of an armistice that ended the war. But Pentagon officials, who sent transit cases to the demilitarized zone weeks ago, are wary of North Korea's pledges given its previous cancellations.

Many of the president's top security and intelligence officials have long doubted that North Korea would live up to any of its commitments. But given the lack of options outside of the diplomatic realm, some analysts said a tolerant approach still provides the best outlook.

"I worry that Trump might lose patience with the length and complexities of negotiations that are common when dealing with North Korea and walk away and revert back to serious considerations of the military option," said Duyeon Kim, the Korea scholar. "Getting to a nuclear agreement takes a long time, and implementing it will be even harder."

'Trump has been hit with a strong dose of reality of North Korea's negotiating style, which is always hard for Americans to understand.'

Duyeon Kim

Korea expert at the Center for a New American Security

PACIFIC

Marines celebrate liberation of Guam

Event marks 74 years after critical World War II battle

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

HAGATNA, Guam — On July 21, 1944, members of the 3rd Marine Division landed on Asan Beach to wrest control of Guam from the Imperial Japanese.

Okinawa-based Marines were hailed as heroes Saturday as they led Guam's Liberation Day parade, an annual celebration of the U.S. Pacific island territory's deliverance 74 years ago from a brutal Japanese occupation. Thousands of Guamanians and indigenous Chamorro lined the streets cheering and shouting, "Thank you for your service," as the smell and smoke of Chamorro barbecue hung in the air.

"It's very sentimental," said local resident Stephanie Borja, as she sat under a tree along the parade route. "We're very proud of the Marines and all of the [armed forces] ... it's very heartwarming and heartfelt that my mom is able to be here and see who liberated the island and where we are today. We're very grateful for the Marines."

Aurora Borja, 69, never misses the event. She said she is grateful to the Marines and the other service branches that fought to free Guam. "My parents suffered during the war," she said as military-themed parade floats passed by.

The Borja family's display is typical of the patriotism seen throughout Guam. Aurora got emotional as she spoke of her two sons who serve in the Army; her husband is also a veteran.

'A desperate battle'

The battle for Guam began just hours after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. After two days of aerial bombardment and strafing, 400 troops landed at Duncas Beach, according to the National Park Service, which maintains the battle sites. Thousands more troops followed.

The resistance was quickly defeated. Fearing a slaughter of the local population, all of whom were U.S. citizens, the military governor ordered the island's surrender, beginning 31 months of brutal subjugation where many locals were tortured, beheaded, raped and forced into labor.

On July 21, 1944, Marines attacked the central western coast of Guam, intent on taking it back, with the 3rd Marine Division landing at Asan Beach while the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed to the south in Agat, according to the Marines and Park Service. They lost approximately two dozen amphibious landing crafts — antracs — in the assault and hundreds of men.

The battle pitted approximately 55,000 U.S. troops against about 20,000 Japanese.

The Americans established a beachhead by nightfall of the first day, but as they looked up at the steep ridges towering in the distance, they knew the battle was just beginning.

In the days that followed, they moved inland and climbed through unforgiving jungle terrain. The Japanese rolled grenades down on them from higher ground, Marine officials said. In the first two days of fighting, they suffered 615 casualties.

The Army's 77th Infantry Division joined the fight on July 23. An all-out Japanese counterattack that included banzai charges began two days later.

After securing the beachhead line, U.S. forces drove north and found the beheaded bodies of dozens of local Guamanians. Organized resistance was declared over



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Marine Staff Sgt. Ronald Orange, III Marine Expeditionary Force Band drum major, directs the band during the Guam Liberation Day parade Saturday.

on Aug. 10, 1944. The next day, Japanese Gen. Hideyoshi Obata sent a message to the emperor from his besieged Mount Mataguac headquarters.

"We are continuing a desperate battle," Obata wrote, according to the Park Service. "We have only our bare hands to fight with. The holding of Guam has become hopeless."

The U.S. lost 1,880 troops fighting the Japanese on Guam, with nearly 6,000 wounded, the Park Service said. All but 1,250 Japanese were killed, according to the Marine Corps.

The people of Guam suffered 1,170 deaths during the war, with another 14,721 surviving various atrocities. Approximately 75 percent of the population had been affected directly in some way.

'Continuing our heritage'

Saturday's Liberation Day festivities began for many locals the night before, as they set up tents along the parade route and cooked and revealed the night away.

Before the parade, newly appointed 3rd Marine Division commander Brig. Gen. William Journey and the Navy's Joint Reserve Marianas commander, Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, took their positions on the reviewing stand with Guam's Gov. Eddie Calvo.

Wearing crisp dress uniforms with polished brass, the division's color guard and III Marine Expeditionary Force band also took their places.

"This is special because we're continuing our heritage," said trumpet player Sgt. Matthew Kitzen-Abelson, who was participating in his third Liberation Day parade. "We're the III Marine Expeditionary Force band, but part of that MEF is the 3rd Marine Division. They're the ones that came up on these shores here and liberated the Guamanians from Japanese occupation, so we're continuing that heritage."

Navy Master Chief Jason Hays, of Submarine Squadron 15, said his children never miss a Liberation Day parade.

"There's nowhere better than Guam," he said. "It's very relaxed, everybody's welcoming, and then it's just a big party



Marine Sgt. Victor Iannelli, of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, greets children along the parade route.

for Liberation Day. What can you not like — barbecue every day, you know, and all of that stuff, and my kids love it."

'Definitely part of me'

Later that night, the III MEF band's popular music group, Adapt and Overfunk, performed a raucous set at the Guam Museum as fireworks exploded overhead.

In attendance was Julia Villagomez, who was 7 years old when the Japanese occupied the island. She was marched from Agaña Heights to the concentration camp at Manengon where she lost a baby sister and her grandmother.

She remembers being smacked around by the Japanese for speaking English. The rest she has largely blanked out.

"[The occupation] was very brutal," Villagomez said. "You see older people who can't walk anymore and you can't stop and help them because then you'll be beaten by the Japanese yourself."

She said it was very important to her to

come out and support her liberators.

"I love [the Marines]," she said. "I really love them. Every time they come in the parade you can see a lot of us crying because those were the first that I remember seeing."

She said Liberation Day is extremely important to Guamanians. She had attended memorial services for the island's war dead throughout the preceding week with younger members of her family. She hoped what Guam went through — and its traditions — would be passed on to the next generation.

"For me, it's also for the younger generation ... so they can realize how we felt, the hardship that we went through," she said. "We suffered. Also, I think they should know what went on in the culture."

Aurora Borja agreed. She said it was important for the next generation to keep the Liberation Day celebration going strong.

Stephanie Borja said she would. "This is definitely part of me," she said.

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MILITARY



LEON COOK/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander, left, and Col. Otis Jones, 374th Airlift Wing commander, pose during the passing of the guidon at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Friday.

Former basketball star takes command of Yokota Air Base

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Air Force's largest transport hub in the Far East has a new leader.

Col. Otis Jones took command of Yokota Air Base and the 3,500-strong 374th Airlift Wing from Col. Kenneth "Bull" Moss during a hangar ceremony on Friday morning.

Jones, the wing's 44th commander, comes to his first assignment in Japan from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., where he led the 19th Operations Group. He has more than 3,000 flying hours in T-37, T-44, C-130 and C-17 aircraft, according to his official biography. He is also the second-highest scorer in Air Force Academy basketball history, with 2,003 career points, and was a finalist for the 1995 Naismith College Player of the Year award.

"I'm going to give you everything I've got," Jones told a formation of airmen sweltering in the hangar on a hot summer's day. "I pledge my very best in supporting you and leading from the front."

Moss is headed to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to serve as the deputy director of operations at Air Mobility Command.

During his two years in Japan, he oversaw the modernization of Yokota's tactical airlift capabili-

ties as the wing's aging C-130H cargo planes were replaced with more advanced C-130Js.

Moss also presided over the recent arrival of the first Special Operations CV-22 Osprey



Moss

tilt-rotor aircraft to be based at Yokota.

He was tested just two months into his command when Typhoon Mindulle struck Yokota in August 2016, C-130 and C-17 aircraft, according to his official biography.

leaving hundreds without power and water. Some base residents were moved to contingency housing while essential services were restored. The crisis led to improvements in the base's typhoon precautions and emergency communication protocols.

Moss also facilitated official visits by President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

"Bull, you've done a phenomenal job leading these warriors during a very dynamic time in our history," said Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander, who officiated the ceremony. "You should be proud of the accomplishments the wing has seen during your tenure."

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Lawmakers hope to ease tax load on some federal workers

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

Senators have introduced a bill that would lessen the blow of taxes on moving expenses for federal workers as a move some government employers say is necessary to attract top talent.

The Relocation Expense Parity Act, introduced Wednesday, would remedy an issue that arose after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated tax deductions on moving costs. Since Jan. 1, federal employees have been liable for taxes on permanent change-of-station expenses that can total thousands of dollars.

Since moving expenses are no longer deductible, additional money for reimbursements employers offer workers to help with moves are taxable. For federal workers, that means checks they never even see, such as those the government pays to ship and store household goods, are counted as taxable income.

The issue was resolved for many after the General Services Administration released directions in May allowing reimbursement of "substantially all" taxes for federal employees moving to another government job.

But the GSA does not have the authority to allow the reimbursements — which come in the form of Withholding Tax Allowance and Relocation Income Tax Allowance payments — to be paid to those entering or leaving federal jobs because of the way the law is written.

A statement released by the bill's sponsors — Sens. Mark Warner, D-Va.; Tim Kaine, D-Va.; Susan Collins, R-Maine; Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.; and Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii — referred to the issue as a "loophole." It would make new or outgoing employees eligible for such reimbursements, by changing the word "employee" to "individual" throughout the law authorizing RITA and WTA.

"This bipartisan legislation closes a remaining gap that prevents all federal employees from being fairly compensated for their willingness to serve our country," Warner said in a statement. "Civilian federal workers uproot their entire lives and move to distant locations in service to their country. They shouldn't have to pay a price for their commitment to public service."

The bill would not change the 2017 tax law's elimination of moving expense deductions, which is

expected to raise about \$1 billion per year for the national budget, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. Rather, it would allow the federal government to reimburse its employees for tax expenses like private-sector employers can.

But the bill is not a fix-all. WTA and RITA payments are considered taxable income themselves, and the payments aren't automatic. Employees must apply for the reimbursements in the year after a move, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Services.

Many federal employees, such as recently retired teacher Alex Veto, had operated under the assumption that they would be

“To suddenly make those moving services taxable to us is unfair and hurtful.”

Alex Veto
recently retired
DODEA teacher

financially when leaving an overseas posting. After dedicating his career to educating military children, Veto was preparing for a move home from Germany, where he taught at Vilsack High School at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, when the 2017 tax law went into effect.

Suddenly, he was facing a "huge, unforeseen cost" and "severe blow to [his] financial situation for retirement," Veto said in a statement released by the Relocation Expense Parity Act's sponsors.

"I worked for DODEA [Department of Defense Education Activity] schools for decades... with the understanding that the government would pay to move my family and our possessions back home when my DODEA career ended," Veto said in the statement. "... To suddenly make those moving services taxable to us is unfair and hurtful."

The retiree said in the statement he thinks that without relief, other federal employees may "delay their retirements because they cannot afford the tax bill they would incur by moving back home."

Some in charge of hiring federal employees have said the new tax burdens have hurt their ability to competitively recruit new workers, especially to over-

seas locations. H.T. Nguyen, executive director of the Federal Education Association, said it's difficult enough attracting talent given the "enormous expenses and stresses anyone agreeing to relocate overseas for government work already faces."

"Why would anyone agree to uproot themselves — and, in many cases, their families — in order to move halfway around the world if doing so will cause them to incur thousands of dollars in tax liability?" he said in a statement. "... The military dependents who have come to rely on such excellent educators staffing DODEA schools will [be] the ones who suffer as a result."

Hirono said the bill would ensure moving costs don't "impede the hiring of new federal employees."

"At a time when Hawaii faces an overall provider shortage in our veterans' health care system, this legislation helps to ensure that the cost of moving does not impede the important work federal employees do across the country every day," she said in a statement.

After its introduction on the Senate floor Wednesday, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. There, legislators will consider whether the bill needs changes and if it should be presented for a vote.

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WAR/MILITARY

Rescue workers in Syria evacuated to Jordan via Israel

By ARON HELLER
AND SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military in coordination with its U.S. and European allies evacuated hundreds of Syrian rescue workers known as the White Helmets from near its volatile frontier with Syria in a complex and first-of-its-kind operation.

The evacuees, who were hemmed in from one side by advancing hostile Syrian troops and from another by militants affiliated with Islamic State were transported to Jordan, from where they are expected to be resettled in Europe and Canada in the coming weeks.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said 422 White Helmets volunteers were evacuated, instead of the initial 800 cleared for the operation. Israel's military said the overnight operation was "an exceptional humanitarian gesture" at the request of the United States and European allies due to an "immediate threat to the (Syrians) lives."

Britain said the operation was possible due to the joint diplomatic efforts, hailing the White Helmets volunteers for saving lives in opposition areas.

Jeremy Hunt, the U.K.'s foreign

secretary, called the successful evacuation "fantastic news," and thanked Israel and Jordan in a tweet for acting quickly following the request. The White Helmets, he said, "are the bravest of the brave, and in a desperate situation, this is at least one ray of hope."

The members of the White Helmets and their families had been stranded along the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights following the Syrian government offensive in southwestern Syria that began in June.

Raed Saleh, head of the White Helmets, who are also known as the Syrian Civil Defense, said a number of volunteers and their families were evacuated from a dangerous, besieged area. He did not provide exact figures.

This was the first such Israeli intervention in Syria's lengthy civil war, now in its eighth year. Although it has sent aid into Syria and has provided medical treatment to thousands of Syrians who reached the Golan Heights frontier, the Israeli military said its actions did not reflect a change to Israel's nonintervention policy in Syria's war, where all the warring parties are considered hostile.

It was an unprecedented operation to provide protection and asylum to allies of Western nations in



COURTESY OF THE WHITE HELMETS/AP

A civil defense worker carries a child after airstrikes hit a school housing displaced people in the Daraa province of Syria in 2017.

Syria's complex battlefield.

The White Helmets have enjoyed backing and received finances and training from the United States and other Western nations for years.

Because of their work in opposition areas, where they were almost exclusively the only ones to offer rescue services in the face of the military advances, they were considered public enemy number one by the Syrian government.

They offered services where state institutions and services are nonexistent. Their facilities were

targeted and their volunteers were hit in what became known as "double tap" attacks that drew the volunteers to areas of bombings only to hit them once on site.

The Syrian government and its ally Russia, have called the White Helmets "terrorists," accused them of being foreign powers' "agents" and of cooperating with radical insurgent groups. Both Moscow and Damascus have accused the White Helmets of staging rescue missions and chemical attacks to blame on the government.

Blast strikes near Kabul airport after VP returns

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — An area near Kabul airport was rocked by an explosive blast soon after controversial Afghan First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum returned from exile Sunday.

Nejib Danish, a spokesman for the interior ministry, said 14 people were killed and more than 50 others were wounded in the blast, which took place minutes after Dostum's convoy left the airport. Dostum and members of his entourage were unharmed.

"Initial reports suggest there was a suicide bomber that detonated his explosives after Gen. Dostum's convoy had passed the entrance of the airport. There are casualties, but we cannot give an exact number right now," said Hashmat Stanikzai, Kabul police spokesman.

Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek general who fought against the Taliban, was forced to leave for Turkey last year amid sexual assault charges but will resume his duties as first vice president under President Ashraf Ghani.

Dostum is infamous for acts of cruelty that include accusations of ordering tanks driven over enemies' legs and suffocating hundreds of Taliban prisoners inside sealed truck containers.

His return highlights divisions within the Afghan government that threaten to tear the country apart ahead of national parliamentary and presidential elections this fall and next spring.

Another bombing targeted Dostum's followers in Shar-e-Naw Park on Monday, but the bomber was shot dead before reaching his target. Supporters at a rally called for Dostum's return and threatened to boycott elections and form their own government if their demands were not met.

Violent protests spread across Afghanistan's northern provinces after government soldiers arrested one of Dostum's proteges in Faryab July 4 after reports he threatened to kill government officials.

It is not clear whether Dostum will face charges on the accusations that prompted his one-year exile in Turkey. A political rival faulted Dostum of neglecting him and ordering that he be sexually assaulted with a gun barrel.

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Alliances: European officials worry Trump will not honor Article 5

FROM FRONT PAGE

consequence can be only that we need to align ourselves even more closely in Europe."

But European allies bewildered by Trump's seeming hostility toward NATO must confront a sobering reality: They have few good alternatives for protecting themselves against Russia or other potential adversaries.

"I think they have finally come to the conclusion that they have a president of the United States that they cannot count on," said James Goldgeier, an American University professor and visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "But what can they really do? Europe has not developed the kind of capacity it would need to have a more independent defense capability."

The dominant U.S. role in NATO was by design when the alliance was created in 1949 — to keep Washington engaged in Europe, where it had fought two major wars, to deter Russia by vowing to defend Europe with nuclear weapons, if necessary, and to prevent Germany from re-emerging as a military threat.

Intentionally or not, experts say, Trump is undermining that design. But his actions are not as severe as his rhetoric.

Trump signed an agreement at the July 12 NATO summit in Brussels, for example, that again condemned Russia's seizure of Crimea and reiterated the alliance's bedrock mutual defense provision, which says an "attack against one Ally will be regarded as an attack against us all."

And despite widespread concerns in NATO that Trump would seek to remove American troops, he has continued to send regular rota-

tions of U.S. troops to Central Europe, where NATO is reinforcing its defenses.

Trump's attacks have been "damaging but so far it may not be long-lasting damage," said Alexander Vershbow, who was NATO's deputy secretary-general from 2012 to 2016 and is a former U.S. ambassador to Russia.

Trump last week deepened European anxieties when he complained on Fox News that the newest member of the alliance, tiny Montenegro, could "get aggressive and, congratulations, you're in World War III." Trump had personally signed off on Montenegro joining the alliance last year.

Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkins fired back that the former Soviet states are the most at risk of Russian aggression.

"For the record: Latvia joined #NATO not because we are aggressive but because we feared aggression based on our own historic experience and we share common Western values like democracy, rule of law and human rights, no intent to start World War III," he tweeted.

Trump's scenario under which the U.S. could be dragged involuntarily into a European war with Russia is far-fetched, not least because Montenegro is smaller than Connecticut and has fewer people than the District of Columbia.

"The lack of trust is total, but they can't say it out loud."

Derek Chollet
German Marshall Fund

Article 5 of the NATO treaty obligates member states to come to the defense of other members if they are attacked but allows each one to take "such action as it deems necessary." The mutual defense provision has been invoked only once — when NATO joined the United States in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

But Trump's questioning of whether he would honor Article 5 and assist member states has unnerved the alliance, fracturing its cohesion and its confidence, especially because Trump continues to offer fulsome praise for Russian President Vladimir Putin during and after their summit in Helsinki.

"No European officials I've talked to believe that Donald Trump would enforce Article 5," said Derek Chollet, a former Pentagon and State Department official now with the German Marshall Fund, a think tank that studies transatlantic relations. "The lack of trust is total, but they can't say it out loud."

To admit openly that the U.S. might not meet its NATO commitments could invite Putin to probe the alliance's resolve by invading or seeking to destabilize NATO members on Russia's western border, analysts said.

"Putin has got to be thinking, 'Do I test this alliance, because if I just test it a little bit, maybe the whole thing breaks,'" Goldgeier said.

Moscow also may seek to test how Trump will respond if it steps up its destabilization of Ukraine, which is not in NATO, Vershbow said. Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and has sent troops and supplied aid to separatist forces fighting in eastern Ukraine.

NATION

1 dead, hostages freed after shooting, standoff

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER
AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who shot his grandmother and wounded another woman before leading police on a chase, crashing his car and running into a busy supermarket where he held dozens of people hostage in a tense standoff has been arrested on suspicion of murder, authorities said Sunday.

Gene Evin Atkins, 28, was being held Sunday morning on \$2 million bail, according to Officer Drake Madison, a Los Angeles police spokesman. It wasn't clear if he had an attorney and a message left at a number listed for Atkins in public records wasn't immediately returned.

A woman was shot and killed when Atkins ran into the Trader Joe's supermarket in Los Angeles' Silver Lake section on Saturday, but no hostages were seriously hurt before the man handcuffed himself and surrendered about three hours later, police said.

Authorities have not identified the slain woman or confirmed if her death sparked the arrest on a murder charge.

Atkins' grandmother was hospitalized in critical condition after the shooting and police had no update on her condition Sunday.

Authorities said Atkins shot his grandmother seven times and injured another woman, who he forced to car, at a South Los Angeles home around 1:30 p.m., police said. Officers tracked the car, gave chase and exchanged gunfire with the man, who crashed into a pole outside the supermarket and then ran inside, they said. The unidentified



A suspect is arrested after evading police and holding dozens of people hostage inside a Trader Joe's.

woman, who suffered a graze wound earlier, was taken out of the car by police.

Frightened customers and workers dove for cover as police bullets fired at the man shattered the store's glass doors.

Some people inside the supermarket climbed out windows, and others barricaded themselves in rooms as scores of police officers and firefighters and 18 ambulances converged on the scene and prepared for mass casualties.

Heavily armed officers in riot gear stood along the side of the store and used mirrors to look inside as hostage negotiators tried to coax the man into freeing his 40 to 50 hos-



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

An unidentified woman is helped by paramedics at a triage area after a gunman held dozens of people hostage inside a Trader Joe's in Los Angeles on Saturday.

tages and surrendering.

At around 6:30 p.m., Atkins agreed to handcuff himself and walked out the front door, surrounded by four of the hostages. He was immediately taken into custody.

Mayor Eric Garcetti congratulated police and firefighters for their work and mourned the loss of life at the Trader Joe's, where he and his wife regularly shopped when they lived in the neighborhood.

"The heroism that was shown today was second to none, and the teams that were able to respond, secure the perimeter and engage in conversations with the suspect no doubt saved lives today," he said.

Among those who survived the harrowing afternoon was 91-year-old Don Kohles, who lives in the neighborhood and was walking into the supermarket when he saw "two police cars coming like a bat out of hell" and the man crashed into the pole.

The driver got out, and police started firing at him as he ran toward the supermarket. Kohles hurried inside, and he and others took cover as the man ran in.

"Those bullets went right over the back of me as he was running right down the main aisle," Kohles said.

Police Chief Michel Moore said the gunman made a "series of demands" during the standoff but crisis negotiators believed they could persuade him to surrender peacefully.

Outside the store, the man exchanged gunfire with police again, and that's when the woman was shot and killed, Moore said. It was unclear if she died from police gunfire or was killed by the gunman.

Fire officials said six people, ranging in age from 12 to 81, were taken to the hospital. None had been shot, and all were in fair condition.

Survivor recounts boat accident that killed family members

BY MARGARET STAFFORD
Associated Press

BRANSON, Mo. — "Grab the baby!"

Those were the last words Tia Coleman recalls her sister-in-law yelling before the tourist boat they were on sank into a Missouri lake, killing 17 people, including nine of Coleman's family members.

A huge wave hit, scattering passengers on the vessel known as a duck boat into Table Rock Lake near Branson, Coleman said. When the Indianapolis woman came up for air, she was alone. She prayed.

"I said, 'Lord, please, let me get to my babies,'" she told reporters from her wheelchair Saturday in the lobby of a hospital where she's recovering after swallowing lake water. "... If they don't make it, Lord, take me, too. I don't need to be here."

Coleman recalled spotting the rescue boat and managed to reach it "somehow." Earlier from her hospital bed, she recounted to television station KOLR her sister-in-law's last words.

Coleman's husband and three children, ages 9, 7 and 1; her 45-year-old sister-in-law and 2-year-old nephew; her mother-in-law and first husband; and her husband's uncle all died Thursday



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Duck boat accident survivor Tia Coleman is comforted by her sister, Leeta Bigbee, after speaking to the media at Cox Medical Center Branson on Saturday.

night in the deadliest accident of its kind in nearly two decades.

Others killed included a Missouri couple who had just celebrated a birthday; another Missouri couple on what was planned as their last extended vacation; an

Illinois woman who died while saving her granddaughter's life; an Arkansas father and son; and a retired pastor who was the boat's operator.

None of the 31 passengers on board was wearing a life jacket, according to an incident report released Saturday by the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

State and federal investigators were trying to determine what sent the vessel, originally built for military use in World War II, to its demise. An initial assessment blamed thunderstorms and winds that approached hurricane strength, but it wasn't clear why the amphibious vehicle even ventured into the water.

Coleman said the crew told passengers they were going into the water first, before the land-based part of their tour, because of the incoming storm. The area had been under a severe thunderstorm watch for hours and a severe thunderstorm warning for more than 30 minutes before the boat sank.

Suzanne Smagala, with Ripley Entertainment, which owns Ride the Ducks in Branson, said it was the company's only accident in more than 40 years of operation.

Twenty-nine passengers and two crewmembers were aboard. Fourteen people survived, in-

cluding two adults who remained hospitalized Saturday. Coleman and her 13-year-old nephew were the only 11 of the 11 members of her family who boarded the boat to make it out alive.

Another survivor was Alicia Dennison, 12, of Illinois, who said her grandmother, Leslie Dennison, 64, saved her from drowning. Alicia's father, Todd Dennison, told the Kansas City Star that his daughter recalled feeling her grandmother "below her, pushing her upward after the boat capsized."

Another young survivor was Loren Smith 14, of Osceola, Ark. She suffered a concussion, but her father, 53-year-old retired math teacher Steve Smith, and her brother, Lance, 15, died.

Others killed included William Bright, 65, and his wife, Janice, 63. The couple had recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary and had talked about Branson being one of their last big trips, recalled neighbor Barbara Beck.

Another Missouri couple killed in the accident were William Asher, 69, and Rosemarie Hamann, 68. The St. Louis-area couple had been celebrating Hamann's birthday earlier in the week. In a final Facebook photo posted by Hamann, he's sticking

his tongue out and she's smiling.

Friend Russ McKay talked to Hamann the day before the accident. McKay said she told him the couple had just gone on a paddle boat and were planning to go again. He doesn't know why they chose the duck boat instead.

Chance also brought the Colemans aboard the doomed vessel.

Tia Coleman said her family initially lined up for the wrong tour so they had to switch out their tickets for the 6:30 p.m. ride.

She said the crew showed passengers where the life jackets were but said they wouldn't need them.

The company's website had been taken down by Saturday, save for a statement that its operations would remain shut while to support the investigation and allow time for families and the community to grieve.

Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board and U.S. Coast Guard were hoping a video recorder recovered from the boat would help provide some explanation on why it sank. NTSB member Earl Weener said winds were 2 mph short of hurricane force at the time.

While the boat's driver on water, Kenneth McKee, 51, survived, its driver on land, Bob Williams, 73, did not.

NATION

Coats clarifies remarks on possible Putin visit

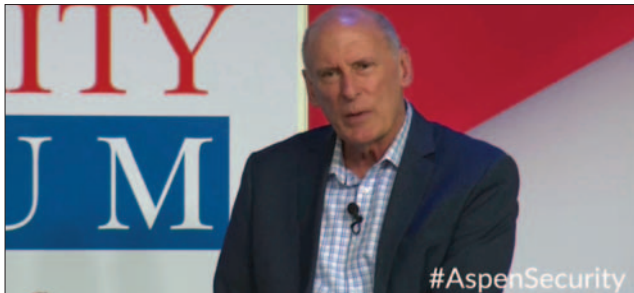
By SHANE HARRIS
The Washington Post

ASPEN, Colo. — Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats sought to clarify remarks he made at a security conference here that infuriated President Donald Trump and raised the possibility that the nation's top intelligence official could be fired.

While interviewing Coats on stage at the Aspen Security Forum on Thursday, NBC's Andrea Mitchell read a White House tweet announcing that Russian President Vladimir Putin had been invited to Washington. A clearly surprised Coats, who had not been told of the invitation, laughed and said, "That's going to be special."

In a statement issued Saturday, Coats said, "My admittedly awkward response was in no way meant to be disrespectful or criticize the actions of the President."

Earlier during the interview Thursday, Coats said that he didn't know what Trump and Putin had discussed in their private meeting in Helsinki last week and that, had he been asked, he would have advised against meeting the Russian



COURTESY OF THE ASPEN SECURITY FORUM/AP

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats speaks Thursday at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

sian president with no aides or note-takers present.

"Coats has gone rogue," said one senior White House official after hearing of the director's remarks.

But another U.S. official called those accusations unfair and said Coats would never try to undercut

or embarrass the president.

Coats and Trump do not have a contentious relationship, officials say, though it's not close. That Coats spoke at all, and so candidly, was somewhat out of step with his custom. Some national security officials have referred to Coats as "Marcel Marceau,"

after the French mime, because "Coats never says anything," said one person familiar with the nickname.

In his statement, Coats said, "I and the entire intel community are committed to providing the best possible intelligence to inform and support President Trump's

ongoing efforts to prevent Russian meddling in our upcoming elections, to build strong relationships internationally in order to maintain peace, denuclearize dangerous regimes and protect our nation and our allies."

Trump decided Thursday morning to have national security adviser John Bolton schedule a second summit and officially invite Putin to visit, The Washington Post has reported. The White House knew that Coats was speaking in Aspen at the time that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted that Trump had extended an invitation to the Russian president, officials said.

There was no indication that Coats or his staff had been aware of what was coming. The timing of that announcement was "unfortunate," said the official who defended Coats.

Earlier in the week, Coats had also seemed to distance himself from the White House when he issued a statement reaffirming the intelligence agencies' unanimous conclusion that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election and that one of Putin's goals was to help Trump's campaign.

DOJ releases application to wiretap ex-Trump adviser

By SHANE HARRIS
The Washington Post

ASPEN, Colo. — The Justice Department on Saturday released a previously classified application to wiretap former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page, who was under suspicion by the FBI of being a Russian agent.

The government had monitored Page under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the heavily redacted documents were made public after media organizations sued for their release under the Freedom of Information Act.

The release of the document, along with three subsequent applications to renew the surveillance, was extraordinary and historic. In the four decades that FISA has been in effect, it's not clear that any application for surveillance has ever been released. Materials related to FISA operations and legal processes are among the most highly classified and closely guarded in the government. The New York Times, USA Today and the James Madison Project all sued for release of the materials.

The publication is also sure to fuel the political fight between Republicans and Democrats over the propriety of the surveillance and how it was legally justified.

Republican lawmakers have accused the Obama administration, which sought the surveillance order in October 2016, of relying on a controversial dossier of then-candidate Donald Trump's alleged connections to Russia to support the surveillance order. The document, compiled by a former British intelligence officer,



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Carter Page, a foreign policy adviser to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, speaks with reporters after being questioned by the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in November.

was used as political opposition research by Democrats and some Republicans. The author, Christopher Steele, also shared his findings with the FBI because he was concerned that Trump may have been compromised by Russia. Members of the House Intelligence Committee have sparred for months over the Page surveillance. Republicans, who previously released some details about the application, had accused the FBI of relying too much on the Steele dossier, which they painted as politically motivated and uncorroborated.

But Democrats countered that the FISA application relied on more information than what Steele provided. And they said Steele had been a reliable source of information to the FBI in the past.

"Even in redacted form, the initial FISA application and

three renewals underscore the legitimate concern FBI had about Page's activities as it was investigating Russia's interference," Rep. Adam Schiff, of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said Saturday. But he added, "While I'm pleased that these conspiracy theories are finally being put to rest, the release of these materials during a pending investigation should not have happened," referring to the ongoing probe of Russian interference in the U.S. elections.

The application shows that the FBI portrayed Steele to the court as a trusted source. The FBI also disclosed that his work was on behalf of a client who was likely looking for politically damaging information about Trump. Republicans had accused the bureau of failing to notify the court of the dossier's political origins.

Lawmakers reject president's claim of misconduct confirmed

Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — President Donald Trump claimed Sunday that newly released documents relating to the wiretapping of his longtime campaign adviser Carter Page "confirm with little doubt" that intelligence agencies misled the courts that approved the warrant. But lawmakers from both parties say the documents don't show wrongdoing.

The documents have been at the center of a political firestorm for months, as some Republicans have suggested that the FBI misrepresented evidence to obtain warrants to monitor Page as they investigated possible collusion between the Russian government and a Trump aide. The documents had remained out of public view until Saturday, when they were released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Visible portions of the heavily redacted documents show the FBI telling the court that Page "has been collaborating and conspiring with the Russian government." The agency also told the court that "the FBI believes Page has been the subject of targeted recruitment by the Russian government."

The documents were part of officials' application for a warrant to the secretive foreign intelligence surveillance court, which signed off on surveilling Page.

Trump tweeted Sunday on the documents: "As usual they are ridiculously heavily redacted but

confirm with little doubt that the Department of 'Justice' and FBI misled the courts. Witch Hunt Rigged, a Scam!"

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, of California, a ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said the documents lay out in detail "just why the FBI was so concerned that Carter Page might be acting as an agent of a foreign power."

"It was a solid application and renewals were signed by four different judges appointed by three different Republican presidents," Schiff said on ABC's "This Week."

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, also broke with Trump, saying he didn't think the FBI did anything wrong in obtaining warrants against Page.

"I have a different view on this issue than the president and the White House," Rubio said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "They did not spy on the campaign from anything and everything that I have seen. You have an individual here who has openly bragged about his ties to Russia and Russians."

Page has denied being an agent of Russia, which he repeated Sunday to CNN, saying, "No, I've never been the agent of a foreign power."

In a 2013 letter, Page described himself as an "informal adviser" to the Kremlin, but Sunday he told CNN "it's really spin" to call him an adviser.

NATION

Judge takes hard line on splitting up immigrant families

By ELLIOTT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw appeared conflicted in early May on whether to stop families from being separated at the border. He challenged the Trump administration to explain how families were getting a fair hearing guaranteed by the Constitution, but also expressed reluctance to get too deeply involved with immigration enforcement.

"There are so many (enforcement) decisions that have to be made, and each one is individual," he said in his calm, almost monotone voice. "How can the court issue such a blanket, overarching order telling the attorney general, either release or detain (families) together?"

Sabraw showed how more than seven weeks later in a blistering opinion faulting the administration and its "zero tolerance" policy for a "crisis" of its own making. He went well beyond the American Civil Liberties Union's initial request to halt family separation — which President Donald Trump effectively did on his own amid a backlash — by imposing a deadline of this Thursday to reunite more than 2,300 children with their families.

Unyielding insistence on meeting his deadline, displayed in a string of hearings he ordered for updates, has made the San Diego jurist a central figure in a drama that has captivated international audiences with emotional accounts of toddlers and teens being torn from their parents.

Circumstances changed dramatically after the ACLU sued the government in March on behalf of a Congolese woman and a Brazilian woman who were split from their children. Three days after the May hearing, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the zero tolerance policy on illegal entry was in full effect, leading to the separation of more than 2,300 children in five weeks.

'The sacred bond'

Sabraw, writing in early June that the case could move forward, found that the practice "arbitrarily tears at the sacred bond between parent and child." It was "a brutal offense" and "incompatible with traditional notions of fair play and decency."

David Martin, professor emeritus at the University of Virginia School of Law, said: "It's probably not the first judge who seemed more deferential and then got much more active when he or she thought the government was not being responsive or had taken a

particularly objectionable stance. Childhood separation clearly had that kind of resonance.

"The intrusion into the family is so severe, the judicial reaction has been just like much of the public's reaction: 'This is an extraordinary step. You shouldn't have done it. You better fix it as quickly as possible,'" said Martin, a Homeland Security Department deputy general counsel under President Barack Obama.

Sabraw, 60, was born in San Rafael, near San Francisco, and raised in the Sacramento area. His father was stationed in Japan during the Korean War, where he met Sabraw's mother.

The judge has said prejudice against Japanese growing up made their housing search difficult.

"In light of that experience, I was raised with a great awareness of prejudice," he told the North County Times newspaper in 2003. "No doubt, there were times when I was growing up that I felt different, and hurtful things occurred because of my race."

While studying at University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, he met his wife, Summer Stephan, who was elected San Diego County district attorney in June. He told the Federal Bar Association magazine in 2009 that his wife and three children, then teenagers, kept him "running from one activity to another and grounded in all that is good and wonderful in life."

The federal bench

Republican President George W. Bush appointed Sabraw to the federal bench in 2003 after he'd spent eight years as a state judge. By virtue of serving in San Diego, his caseload is heavy with immigration and other border-related crimes.

In 2010, he oversaw a settlement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over allegations that San Diego officials misled investors about city pension liabilities. In 2014, he favored Apple Inc. in a closely watched patent infringement case against the tech behemoth. In 2016, he sided with the state of California in refusing to block a law requiring school vaccine vaccinations.

Robert Carreido, a criminal defense attorney who estimates having had 20 to 30 cases before the judge, was a little surprised how hard Sabraw came down on separating families because he saw pretty closely to the government's sentencing recommendations.

"He rarely will go above what we've negotiated (in plea agreements), but he doesn't usually go much lower than what the government recommends," Carreido



ERIC GAY/AP

A young immigrant who was recently reunited with his family plays with toys at a Catholic Charities facility Wednesday in San Antonio.

said. "In my experience, I would consider him in the middle."

Sabraw's reputation for a calm, courteous demeanor and running an efficient calendar has been clear in his highest-profile case so far. He has kept hearings to about 90 minutes, telling attorneys he doesn't want to get too "in the weeds" on logistics of reunifying families.

'A place of worship'

"My general view is if the court has to raise its voice or threaten sanction, then we've lost control," Sabraw told the Daily Journal, a Los Angeles legal publication, last year. "I never want to be in that position. Usually, almost always, court is almost like a place of worship."

His patience wore thin one Friday afternoon when the government submitted a plan to reunite children 5 and older that excluded DNA testing and other measures. The government said "truncated" vetting was needed to meet Sabraw's deadline, despite considerable risk to child safety.

The judge quickly summoned both sides to a conference call at 5:30 p.m. to say the plan misrepresented his instructions and was designed to pin blame on him if anything went wrong.

The government, which never showed serious consideration of an appeal, submitted a revised plan two days later that restored DNA testing if red flags arose.

Jonathan White, a senior Health and Human Services Department official and the plan's architect, authoritatively answered questions in court the next day, prompting the judge to tell him he had "every confidence that you are the right person to do this."

The revised plan, he said, was a "great start to making a large number of reunifications happen very, very quickly."

Hillary Clinton offers to help reunite immigrants, children

By SABRINA CASERTA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hillary Clinton is offering a helping hand to immigrants looking to reunite with their families. She says she'll help organize transportation they might not be able to afford.

"I'm going to be tweeting about this in the days to come, but if any of you work for an airline, please direct-message me because these families will need vouchers and discounted tickets to be reunited over these thousands of miles," she told a crowd cheering her Saturday in Central Park in New York City when she took the stage as part of a star-studded summer festival of conversation, music and food.

Immigrants separated from their children after crossing the U.S. border illegally was only one topic addressed by the former Democratic presidential candidate, secretary of state and U.S. senator from New York as part of the OZY Fest in the park's Rumsey Playfield.

She was interviewed by Laurene Powell Jobs, founder of the Emerson Collective, a nonprofit advocate of liberal causes that led the event.

Clinton also took on last week's burning topic: Republican President Donald Trump's encounter with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki amid special counsel Robert Mueller's warning that Russian intelligence services

have active "interference operations" in U.S. politics.

"It's really distressing and alarming," Clinton said. "It should concern every American of any political party because this was a direct attack on our democracy."

Clinton, who lost to Trump in the 2016 election, said, "It's fair to say it was a broad and unfortunately successful attack on our electoral system."

She said the United States has four main adversaries: Russia, China, North Korea and Iran.

"If anyone gets away with the attack Russia did, it empowers them all to keep probing."

As for the Helsinki meeting: "Now we have Putin telling the world what was decided," she said, while "we're hearing crickets from the White House; nothing has been put out that contradicts or replaces Putin's agenda."

Clinton described the Russian leader as a "very aggressive guy" and said she believes he "wants to dominate his neighborhood again."

In this case, it seems like our president doesn't care," she said. "He wants to be friends with Putin for reasons we aren't sure of."

Clinton concluded, "We are still very vulnerable."

Other announced guests at the festival included comedians Michelle Wolf and Hasan Minhaj; the band Passion Pit; rapper Common; and authors Malcolm Gladwell and Salman Rushdie.

NATION



ALEX SANZ/AP

The black-tie Apollo Celebration Gala is held under a Saturn V rocket at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Saturday.

Gala kicks off Apollo's anniversary year

BY ALEX SANZ
AND MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Former NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin was noticeably absent from a gala kicking off a yearlong celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the first moon landing, even though his nonprofit space education foundation is a sponsor and he typically is the star attraction.

The black-tie Apollo Celebration Gala held under a Saturn V rocket at the Kennedy Space Center on Saturday evening featured a panel discussion by astronauts, an awards ceremony and an auction of space memorabilia.

Hundreds of people attended the sold-out event, including British physicist Brian Cox, who presented Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson with the ShareSpace Foundation's Innovation award.

Branson, whose company is developing a new generation of commercial spacecraft, said in a recorded video that the Apollo missions influenced his generation.

"Space is still hard, really hard. It still really matters," Branson said. "There would be no Virgin Galactic, no Virgin Orbit and no spaceship company had it not been for Apollo astronauts and the thousands of talented people who made their mission possible." Dr. Carolyn Williams, of the nonprofit From One Hand To AnOTHER, received the foundation's Education award, and former Johnson Space Center director Gerry Griffin, a flight director for all of the crewed Apollo missions, was honored with the Pioneer award.

"It's very humbling; it kind of came out of the blue," Griffin said. "It is so neat to know that we've passed the torch that will let this next generation take us to this next step."

That next step, Griffin said, is a return of Americans to the Moon and, eventually, Mars — something former Apollo astronauts Walt Cunningham, Harrison Schmitt, Rusty Schweickart and Tom Stafford discussed during a conversation with Cox.

"We're sort of going through a second door here. The door isn't all the way open — we haven't gone all the way through it — but it's cracked open," Schweickart, who flew as the lunar module pilot on Apollo 9, told The Associated Press.

"Space is going to be much less expensive to go to, and that's going to open up not just opportunities for people to fly, but because of the decreased cost, real opportunities for innovators to generate new ideas and to do things that have never been done before."

Aldrin's ShareSpace Foundation is one of the sponsors of the annual gala, which raises money for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics — or STEAM education — and Astronaut Scholarship Foundation scholarships.

Renowned Brazilian pop artist Romero Britto donated artwork from his "Buzz Aldrin Space Series" for the auction, which also included a behind-the-scenes tour of Virgin Galactic in California and autographed space memorabilia. Tickets for the event ranged from \$750 to \$2,500 per person.

The former astronaut's expected absence comes just a month after he sued two of his adult children and a former business

manager, accusing them of misusing his credit cards, transferring money from an account and slandering him by saying he has dementia. Only weeks before the lawsuit, Andrew and Jan Aldrin filed a petition claiming their 88-year-old father was suffering from memory loss, delusions, paranoia and confusion.

Andrew and Jan Aldrin, as well as business manager Christina Korp, are on the foundation's board and attended the gala. Aldrin's oldest son, James, isn't involved in the legal fight.

Andrew Aldrin acknowledged his father's absence during the gala.

"We're sorry dad can't be here,

I know some of you are disappointed," Aldrin said. "Ultimately, what we're about is creating the first generation of Martians."

Buzz Aldrin, along with Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins, was part of the Apollo 11 mission which landed the first two humans on the moon on July 20, 1969.

Astronaut jams with German band

Associated Press

BERLIN — Kraftwerk fans are used to hearing otherworldly tunes, but the German electronic music pioneers took it to another level at a gig in Stuttgart.

Video posted Saturday by the European Space Agency shows German astronaut Alexander Gerst "dropping in" for a live performance from the International Space Station.

Using a tablet computer with a virtual synthesizer, Gerst played a duet of Kraftwerk's 1978 song "Spacelab" with the band Friday night to cheers from the audience.

He's not the first space musician. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield recorded a cover of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" and played a duet with the Barenaked Ladies while 250 miles above the Earth in 2013.

American astronaut Ron McNair planned to play saxophone from orbit with Jean Michel Jarre in 1986 but died in the Challenger tragedy.



AP

German astronaut Alexander Gerst, shown departing for the International Space Station in June, appeared in a live video performance with German electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk on Friday.

WORLD

Pakistan blast kills candidate, driver ahead of election

BY ISHTIAQ MAHSUD
Associated Press

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan — A suicide bombing on Sunday in northwestern Pakistan killed a candidate running for a seat in the provincial assembly and his driver and wounded three other people, police said.

It was the latest violence ahead of Wednesday's elections, when Pakistanis are to elect the National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, and four provincial assemblies.

According to police officer Zahoor Afridi, the candidate, Ikramullah Gandapur, from opposition leader Imran Khan's party, was returning home from a campaign event when the bomber struck in the city of Dera Ismail Khan, wounding him. He died a short while later in a military hospital, Afridi said. Along with his driver who was also killed, three other people, including two policemen, were wounded.

Later Sunday, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing that killed Gandapur.

Earlier this month, a provincial assembly candidate was killed

in a massive suicide bombing in Mastung district in southwestern Baluchistan province, along with 148 people. Also, in the northwestern city of Peshawar a suicide bombing this month killed another provincial assembly candidate and 20 others. Gandapur's brother Israr was killed in a suicide attack in 2013. After his younger brother's death, Gandapur was elected as a member of the assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and appointed provincial minister for agriculture.

In the July 25 balloting, he was to run on the list of the Tahrir-e-Insaf party, led by Khan, who aspires to become the country's next prime minister.

Analysts say Khan, a famous former cricket player, enjoys the backing of the military, which has ruled Pakistan directly and indirectly for most of its 71-year history.

Also Sunday, the convoy of another election candidate, Akram Durrani, came under fire in the northwestern town of Bannu. No one was hurt.

Durrani survived a suicide attack earlier this month that killed



MOHAMMAD SAJJAD/AP

A street is decorated with banners and billboards ahead of Wednesday's elections in Peshawar, Pakistan. On Sunday, candidate Ikramullah Gandapur and his driver were killed in a suicide bombing.

four people.

Following Sunday's attacks, Pakistan's election oversight body postponed the balloting for the provincial assembly seat that Gandapur was contesting.

It also postponed the balloting for the National Assembly seat

from the garrison city of Rawalpindi, where a candidate from former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party was disqualified after being convicted of substance abuse.

Voting for those two seats would take place at a later date.

UK urged to liberalize N. Ireland abortion laws

LONDON — The British government is facing rising calls to liberalize abortion laws in Northern Ireland.

More than 170 politicians called Sunday for action to be taken. The group included legislators from political parties in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland. They sent a letter to the Sunday Times to urge Britain to repeal the 19th-century laws that make it a crime to seek an abortion in Northern Ireland.

They say nearly 1,000 women and girls from Northern Ireland traveled to the British mainland last year to get abortions, while others took illegal abortion drugs at home.

The Republic of Ireland voted overwhelmingly in May to ease its abortion laws, but that vote does not affect Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom.

New Brexit chief: We might not pay exit fee

LONDON — Britain's slow move away from the European Union took a new twist Sunday as the new Brexit chief suggested that Britain might not pay its \$51 billion divorce bill if no trade agreement with the EU is reached.

Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab told the Sunday Telegraph that there must be "conditionalities" between Britain making the hefty exit payment and its ability to create a new relationship with the EU.

"We can't have one side fulfilling its side of the bargain and the other side not, or going slow, or failing to commit on its side," he said, implying that the threat of withholding payment might get Brexit talks back on track.

Summer job in Britain: Count the butterflies

LONDON — What to do during Britain's hottest summer in years? Why, count butterflies, of course.

Britain is holding a Big Butterfly Count to help experts assess the state of the wildlife environment. The count is being backed by celebrities, including naturalist David Attenborough, and depends on people devoting 15 minutes to counting butterfly species.

More than 60,000 volunteers took part in the Butterfly Conservation survey last year. The annual survey began in 2010, and the group says it has become the largest butterfly monitoring project in the world.

Ecuadoreans build record pyramid of roses

TABACUNDO, Ecuador — The people in this small Andean town are the proud creators of the biggest floral structure ever built — a life-size replica of an indigenous pyramid made from 546,364 roses.

A judge for Guinness World Records took nearly all day Saturday to confirm that Tabacundo had achieved the record.

Nearly all the flowers are red roses, with 6 percent white, pink and yellow to provide white borders and a dazzling sun.

From The Associated Press

Without mobile money, Nigerians bury cash in yards

Bloomberg

Every few days, Tasiu Abdurrahman, 55, takes the money he makes from selling spices in Nigeria's biggest northern city and buries it in his yard.

He closed his bank account eight years ago after growing disillusioned with standing in long lines for hours to deposit or withdraw cash. Abdurrahman is one of about 50 million of the unbanked in Nigeria, which despite having Africa's largest mobile-phone market is only just opening up to the technology to bring banking to its estimated 200 million people.

"My business partners need cash," said Abdurrahman as he juggled two mobile phones at his ginger and tamarind stand, one of many dotting the streets in Kano. "If they all opened bank accounts, I would be happy to."

Financial inclusion in Nigeria

— which vies with South Africa as the continent's biggest economy — has gone backward as the regulator blocked network operators from applying for mobile money licenses that would allow cash transfers without the need for a bank account. Between 2014 and 2017, the percentage of banked adults dropped nearly 4 percentage points, to 39 percent, while the sub-Saharan African average increased more than 8 percentage points, to 43 percent.

The Central Bank of Nigeria this month announced it is not on track to reach its target of increasing financial inclusion to 80 percent by 2020.

It is now reviewing the path it took in 2012 with a "refreshed strategy" and has also signed a cooperation agreement with the Nigerian Communications Commission to improve the penetration of financial services using

mobile phones.

Less than 6 percent of Nigerians use their handsets to transact using mobile money, compared with 73 percent of Kenyans. In Kenya, more than two-thirds of adults have a bank account, according to the World Bank. That's even though there are more than two phones for every bank account in the West African nation.

"We're taking baby steps when we should be running," Yomi Iboisola, an associate director at Deloitte Nigeria's data analytics practice, said in an interview in Lagos, the commercial hub.

Cellular phone operators would invest more if they were allowed to lead the way, said Emeka Oparah, a spokesman for Bharti Airtel's Nigerian unit, which has 40 million subscribers.

"Right now, we're only providing a platform for some people to use. If it becomes our business,

we will invest in it," Oparah said. The government should adjust its policies "if it wants to move very quickly."

Fidelity Bank allows people to open an account using a mobile phone, said Chief Operations and Information Officer Gbolahan Joshua. It is also using agents to offer banking services, such as small payments and deposits, through informal branches, he said, adding the lender has 3.9 million customers.

"When you open an account on your mobile, you can receive money but you cannot make payments," Joshua said. "You need a Bank Verification Number to make transactions on that account you opened on mobile. Since the targets for financial inclusion are people that don't have BVN already, some infrastructure needs to be deployed, like mobile BVN."

Gunmen in South Africa ambush taxi drivers, killing 11

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — South African police said gunmen opened fire on a minibus carrying members of a taxi drivers' association, killing 11 people and critically

wounding four others.

Police Brig. Jay Naicker said the victims of the Saturday night attack had attended the funeral of a colleague and were returning home when the ambush occurred. He said the attack happened be-

tween the towns of Coleenso and Weenen, in KwaZulu-Natal province, and the victims were from Gauteng province.

Police are investigating possible motives. Tensions between groups of taxi drivers vying for the same

routes sometimes spill into deadly violence in South Africa.

South African media reported the deaths of 10 people in violence related to rivalries among minibus taxi drivers in Cape Town over one weekend in May.

EUROPE

TURNING THE TIDE



U.S. Army Center of Military History

US Army's resilience 100 years ago at Soissons seen as key moment in WWI

By PATRICK GREGORY
Special to Stars and Stripes

On July 15, 1918, German military commander Erich Ludendorff unleashed what he optimistically called his "Freedom Offensive."

It was his fifth offensive of that spring and summer, and it would prove to be the final — although not for the reasons he had hoped. No final German breakthrough was achieved. Instead, it would prove to be the last throw of the dice which turned the tide against his own forces in World War I. In November of that year, Germany would sue for peace.

Intent on drawing Allied reserves into the area from northern France and Belgium, Ludendorff sent his troops cascading around the city of Reims in the Champagne sector toward the Marne River — a resumption of the Aisne-Marne assault of May and June when he had originally hoped to break the back of the Allies.

Within hours, his troops had crossed the Marne — one of the key gateways to Paris — east of the bridgehead of Chateau Thierry.

In their way stood the American Expeditionary Force's 3rd Division, a constituent part of the French 5th Army. At its core were two AEF regiments whose stout defense would later lead them to be dubbed the Rock of the Marne: Ulysses Grant McAlexander's 38th Infantry and the 30th Infantry headed by Col. "Billy" Butts. The two regiments repelled the attackers across the valley of the



National Archives at College Park

American heavy artillery is positioned at Soissons, France, 1918.

Surmeline River running into the Marne.

With the German offensive now effectively stalled, Allied Supreme Commander Marshal Ferdinand Foch could focus his full attention on the counteroffensive that he was planning some 20 miles north.

Foch had picked the area south of the strategic transport hub of Soissons to turn the tide on the Germans and bite into the bulge of a salient created in the Aisne-Marne area by the German assaults of May and June. His aim was to attempt to push enemy forces back beyond the Vesle and Aisne rivers from where they had begun their attacks two months before; offensives which for a period threatened Paris itself.

Accordingly, Foch directed that key units be gathered up in the Villers-Cotterets forest southwest of Soissons as part of the French

10th Army. Key to the operation, was the army's XX Corps, which was to spearhead the assault, comprising on either flank the U.S. 1st and 2nd Divisions, with the doughy 1st Moroccan Division, which included a polyglot mix of Foreign Legionnaires, at its center.

It was from there, as dawn broke on July 18, that the attack jumped off.

Advancing from west to east behind a rolling barrage of medium and heavy artillery, the three divisions focused on the area south of Soissons, aiming to sever the strategically important road and rail links from Soissons down to the Marne.

The attack succeeded in penetrating German lines by 2-4 miles. The regiments of the 1st Division's 2nd Brigade on the northernmost flank sustained particularly heavy incoming fire

as they attempted to pass over the Missy Ravine; and some 1,500 total casualties were reported.

It was a figure set to double the following day as the defending enemy forces dug in and as the Allied units were afforded less support from the tank battalions which had accompanied them into battle.

But still the AEF divisions maintained their momentum. The 2nd Division, attacking the southern sector, made impressive and rapid movement in the face of rising casualty toll. Seven miles of ground was gained in just over 24 hours. By July 21, they had driven well beyond the road leading from Soissons down to Chateau-Thierry on the Marne, as German divisions began withdrawing from the salient.

No one immediate endpoint to the Americans' Soissons campaign can be easily identified or a single moment of victory declared. It was not all over in an instant. The German presence did not disappear entirely in the weeks ahead.

Yet the speed and aggression of the AEF units marked a signal military achievement. For the first time in 1918, Ludendorff's men found themselves on the retreat and no further offensive was to be attempted by them in the remaining 3½ months of the war.

These were still early days for the AEF in the conflict. The first full U.S.-led assault had taken place only two months previously at Cantigny in northern France.

That had been followed by the fighting in and around the Marne, including the Marines' bloody

Battle of Belleau Wood. Battle order was still being learned and mistakes being made. Heavy casualties had been sustained in all the conflicts to date — a mix of poor planning; insufficient artillery support and communications with that artillery; and problems relating to transport and supply.

But what was not in doubt was the Americans' steadfastness on the battlefield. The troops' willingness to fight had been tested in often treacherous conditions and they had proved themselves to be up for the fight.

"It is not often possible to say of wars just when and where the scales wavered, hung, then turned for good and all," Gen. Robert Lee Bullard said of the Battle of Soissons as he singled out the work of his divisions in the fight.

It was a sentiment echoed by World War II Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall, who, as an operational strategist, came of age with the AEF in World War I.

"The entire aspect of the war had changed," Marshall said. "The great counteroffensive on July 18 at Soissons had swung the tide of battle in favour of the Allies, and the profound depression which had been accumulating (was dissipated) and replaced by a wild enthusiasm throughout France and especially directed towards the American troops who had so unexpectedly assumed the leading role in the Marne operation."

Patrick Gregory is co-author with Elizabeth Nurser of "An American on the Western Front: The First World War Letters of Arthur Clifford Kimmer 1917-18." Twitter: @AmericanOnTheWF

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Gift to mom: Night in Lizzie Borden bedroom

MA FALL RIVER — A mother and a daughter with a love of the macabre won an online auction to spend a night in the Massachusetts bedroom where Lizzie Borden is thought to have killed her stepmother with an ax.

Sara Love, of Bath, N.Y., told The Herald-News she paid \$425 for a night in the room at the Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast in Fall River as a retirement gift for her mom.

Love and her mother, Marie Schinck, of Manchester, N.H., are scheduled to stay in the room the night of Aug. 4, the anniversary of the 1892 ax murders of Andrew and Abby Borden.

Tractor driver leads cops on slow-speed chase

CO DENVER — The Denver Post reported that a man driving a tractor led authorities on a slow-speed chase through the city Friday night before hitting a police vehicle downtown.

The newspaper said it appears more than a dozen squad cars chased the tractor and many other vehicles were hit. The Post said police rammed the tractor with their cars to end the chase.

The newspaper said the driver of the tractor suffered multiple police dog bites and was hit with a stun gun before he was arrested.

Horse takes carriage on wild ride without driver

TN MEMPHIS — Authorities and eyewitnesses said a horse went on a wild carriage ride without its driver in a tourist area in Memphis, injuring at least one person.

The Commercial Appeal reported the horse was eventually brought under control Friday night in an area near Beale Street and was apparently uninjured.

James Freeman, a visitor from St. Louis, said the carriage driver was trying to get into the carriage when the horse started moving.

Freeman said the driver ran after the horse but couldn't get back into the carriage.

Sheriff: Drugs sprayed on mail sent to inmates

FL PANAMA CITY — Florida authorities charged more than two dozen people as part of a sophisticated drug-smuggling operation that consisted of spraying synthetic drugs on mail sent to inmates.

Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford on Friday announced that 27 people had been arrested as part of a yearlong investigation called "You've Got Mail." It began when authorities found a drug called Suboxone on a strip of plastic placed between pieces of a card sent to a county jail inmate.

Investigators say two inmates at the center of the operation had family members and associates mail synthetic-drug laced paper to themselves and others. The two inmates cut the paper into squares of different sizes and sold it.

THE CENSUS

10 The weight in tons of a bronze sculpture in Los Angeles that was moved about 100 feet across a downtown square as part of a \$40 million renovation. A crane on Saturday hoisted the Jacques Lipchitz work, Peace on Earth, to its new home on the west side of Music Center Plaza. The sculpture portrays a dove descending to Earth with the spirit of peace, symbolized by the Madonna standing inside a canopy. The plaza renovation will include five new buildings including a welcome center and restaurant.



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

In a pickle

Picklesburgh Festival goers have pickle portraits taken in a photo booth on the Roberto Clemente bridge in downtown Pittsburgh on Friday. All things pickle were celebrated at the festival, which ran through Sunday.

Groom rushes to help at nearby crash scene

MD EASTON — The newly married couple was posing for sunset photos recently at an inn on Maryland's Eastern Shore when the dreamy atmosphere was broken by the unmistakable screeching of a car crash.

"I heard the squeal of the brakes and a crash, and realized what it was," Marine Capt. Andrew Cruz, 30, said. He left the side of his bride, Cara Neufeld, and sped toward the sound. Cruz and others from the wedding discovered an SUV flipped onto its passenger side.

The side curtain air bag had deployed, so they could only see the driver's legs and there was no response when they knocked on the windows, Cruz said.

Cruz's brother-in-law, Brandon Neufeld, said Cruz climbed atop the SUV and used his elbow to break the window.

Cruz then spoke to an OnStar operator and as the driver regained consciousness, emergency workers arrived.

Couple buys their own island for \$60K

WV MONTGOMERY — An Ohio couple purchased a West Virginia island for \$60,000.

News outlets reported James Ballor, of Columbus, Ohio, and his wife, Laura, made the winning bid for Eastern Wheeler Island in the Kanawha River at an auction Thursday in Montgomery. Bidding for the 17-acre island that was once a private airstrip started at \$40,000.

The Ballors, who hadn't previously vacationed in West Virginia, recently became intrigued by the idea of owning an island when they found it on Craigslist.

Paper problem has train tickets reading 2019

NY MASSAPEQUA — It's back to the future on the Long Island Rail Road.

The nation's largest commuter train system said Friday it's printing next month's tickets on paper marked for 2016 and 2019 due to a

problem with its usual supply.

Riders who get monthly tickets by mail will see a big "19" instead of "18" on the one for August.

Month tickets sold at ticket machines and offices are being made with green ticket stock from 2016.

Residents question strange sighting in sky

OR PENDLETON — Many Pendleton residents are questioning what it was they saw in the skies over the town.

The East Oregonian reported residents spotted a small white object Wednesday floating above the south area of Pendleton for the better part of an hour.

Some thought the object was a kite or plastic shopping bag.

Construction worker Virgil Bates Jr. used his smartphone to zoom in and take photos and video of the object.

Bates said the situation grew stranger when a second similar object came into view and drifted down beside the first. Then one object zipped off in a straight line

over McKay Creek drainage east of Pendleton.

Man leads police on chase in 2 trucks

WY GILLETTE — Wyoming police said a man twice led them in a chase — once in a pickup and then in a concrete mixer truck.

Gillette Police Lt. Brent Wasson said the incident began about 11:15 p.m. Wednesday when police tried to stop a pickup on the Interstate 90 on-ramp.

The Gillette News Record reported the driver fled, reaching speeds up to 100 mph and forcing police to stop active pursuit.

The pickup later crashed into a ditch in a field, and the driver fled on foot into a nearby construction business where he commandeered the concrete mixer.

Wasson said that at some point the truck's brakes locked and caught fire, disabling the truck. Wasson said a 32-year-old man was taken into custody pending formal charges.

From wire reports

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OPINION



DEBBIE HILL, POOL/AP



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP

Left: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, left, shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a joint press conference in Jerusalem on Thursday. Above: Orbán touches the stones of the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray in Jerusalem's old city on Friday.

Summit of illiberal nationalists in Israel

By ISHAAN THAROOR

The Washington Post

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is perhaps Europe's most outspoken illiberal leader. He's reviled by many the Western establishment for his demonization of migrants and his steady undermining of democracy at home.

He has also seemingly courted his country's right-wing anti-Semites. A key plank of his successful April re-election bid centered on his loathing for Jewish-American financier George Soros, whom Orbán scapegoated as a national menace for his support of liberal nongovernmental organizations in Hungary. His government has pushed through a so-called "Stop Soros" law, criminalizing individuals and organizations that aid asylum-seekers and migrants, which provoked legal action from the European Union. Critics also spied blatant anti-Semitic tropes in Orbán's propaganda.

Orbán's nationalism reaches into even darker territory. Last year, he hailed Miklós Horthy, a World War II-era Hungarian nationalist and Nazi collaborator, as "an exceptional statesman." That statement provoked ire from various Jewish organizations in Europe and Israel.

Despite all of this, however, there was Orbán in Jerusalem on Thursday, standing at a news conference next to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who warmly welcomed his Hungarian counterpart during his two-day trip to the Jewish state.

Netanyahu tweeted "I am happy to host in Israel my friend, the prime minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán. The relations between Israel and Hungary have become very strong in recent years, and we will continue to strengthen them."

Orbán may be a black sheep in Brussels, but to Netanyahu he's a kindred spirit. The Israeli prime minister, a fellow right-wing nationalist, shares the Hungarian's affinity for President Donald Trump and antipathy toward the custodians of the liberal order in Europe — including figures such as Soros. When Netanyahu faced an international backlash, led by American Jews, against his plans to deport tens of thousands of African asylum-seekers, he blamed the liberal financier for the criticism. His son once posted a neo-fascist, anti-Soros meme on social media.

Netanyahu, to the ire of many Israelis, signed a joint statement with Poland's right-wing government this month softening Israel's stance toward a divisive new

Orbán may be a black sheep in Brussels, but to Netanyahu he's a kindred spirit.

law passed in Warsaw that criminalizes certain criticism of Poland's role in the Nazi genocide of Europe's Jews. Netanyahu also gave something of a pass to Orbán for his comments praising Horthy.

As Haaretz journalist Anshel Pfeffer writes, Netanyahu is courting nationalists in Eastern and Central Europe to blunt EU criticism of Israel's provocative moves at home, from its perennial expansion of West Bank settlements to new laws passed last week that prioritize Jewish-only communities, downgrade the status of Arabic, and limit Palestinian access to the nation's highest court.

"Though largely symbolic, the new nationality law omits any mention of democracy or enunciation of the principle of equality, in what critics called a betrayal of Israel's foundational document, its Declaration of Independence," explained The New York Times. "Opponents say it will inevitably harm the delicate balance between the country's Jewish majority and its Arab minority, which makes up about 21 percent of a population of nearly nine million."

Netanyahu's courtship seems to be paying off. "Officially, Hungary is still sticking to the EU position of supporting the two-state solution and not recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital," wrote Pfeffer. "But while he is in Israel this week, Orbán will make another gesture by visiting the Western Wall in Jerusalem. And he will be defying EU practice, if not official policy, by not including a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah on his schedule as well."

Netanyahu, though, does not represent the Israeli consensus on Orbán. Protesters confronted the Hungarian leader Thursday as he exited Yad Vashem, Israel's monument to the Holocaust. Orbán's vehement anti-refugee politics and his broader illiberalism, noted Israeli-American journalist Mairav Zonszein, conflict "with the lessons of the Holocaust and ... with Israel's branding as a liberal home for the Middle East's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community."

A host of Netanyahu's domestic opponents also kicked up a fuss. "After he disrespected the memory of Holocaust vic-

tims in the agreement with Poland, today Netanyahu will pay honors to Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán, who hailed and praised the anti-Semitic ruler who collaborated with the Nazis in destroying the Jews of Hungary," lawmaker Yair Lapid wrote on Twitter. "Shame!"

At a news conference in Jerusalem, Netanyahu preferred to focus on another bête noire the two men share. "The threat of radical Islam is a real one," he said. "It could endanger Europe. It could endanger the world." Orbán, meanwhile, said the strength of the new bonds between the two governments hinged on "excellent personalities" between himself and Netanyahu, "because the two countries have patriots as leaders." He insisted that Jews "can feel safe" in Hungary and declared that "expressions against the state of Israel" count as a "form of anti-Semitism."

Netanyahu's defenders argue that the Israeli prime minister is simply tacking to the political winds of the moment. "Israel has no choice but to reach out and develop as many friendships and relationships as it can among the family of nations," argued an editorial in The Jerusalem Post. "Netanyahu's multitude of visits to Moscow to see Russian President Vladimir Putin and his unprecedented closeness with Trump don't derive from an across-the-board acceptance of everything they stand for." The same, the editorial contended, should be considered in Netanyahu's embrace of Orbán.

But his opponents see something far more sinister. "For Netanyahu and his government, anti-Semitism is something to accuse critics of, not something that could possibly be attributed to them. Especially critics who have the audacity to oppose Israel's human rights violations," Zonszein wrote. "This long into the Netanyahu era, Israel finds itself in a tragically ironic position. It uses the anti-Semitism card to normalize its existence as an ethno-nationalist Jewish state — and by doing so deflects any criticism of its zero-sum policies. And at the same time, it condones anti-Semitism in countries willing to overlook its abuses."

"Netanyahu has a thing [for] anti-Semitic leaders around the world," Tamar Zandberg, another opposition politician, wrote on Facebook, "from Hungary and Poland, to the head of the Philippines, [Rodrigo] Duterte, who compared himself to Hitler, and instead of suffering condemnation, was invited as well for a state visit."

Ishaan Tharoor writes about foreign affairs for The Washington Post.

OPINION

Putin is obsessed with the Magnitsky Act

By VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA

Special To The Washington Post

Standing by President Donald Trump's side in Helsinki for their first bilateral summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin made what Trump described as an "incredible" offer: He would help U.S. investigators gain access to Russian intelligence officers indicted for the 2016 election hacking, on one small condition. "We would expect that the Americans would reciprocate and they would question [U.S.] officials ... who have something to do with illegal actions on the territory of Russia," Putin said, producing the name to indicate what actions he had in mind: "Mr. Browder."

Bill Browder, an American-born financier, came to Russia in the 1990s. The grandson of a former general secretary of the Communist Party U.S.A., Browder by his own admission "wanted to become 'the biggest capitalist in Russia.' He succeeded and was for a decade the country's largest portfolio foreign investor.

Whatever the sins of Russia's free-wheeling capitalism, Browder's real crime in the eyes of the Kremlin came in 2003, when he had his last fight with Russia. In 2008, his Moscow lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, uncovered a tax scam involving government officials that defrauded Russian taxpayers of \$230 million. He did what any law-abiding citizen would, reporting the crime to the relevant authori-

ties. In return, he was arrested and held in detention without trial for almost a year. He was beaten and died on Nov. 16, 2009, at Moscow's Matrosskaya Tishina prison under mysterious circumstances. Officials involved in his case received awards and promotions. In a chilling act worthy of Kafka, the only trial held for the Magnitsky case was a posthumous sentencing of Magnitsky — the only trial against a dead man in the history of Russia.

It was then that Browder turned to full-time advocacy, traveling the world to persuade one Western parliament after another to pass a measure that was as groundbreaking as it would appear obvious: a law, commemoratively named the Magnitsky Act, that bars individuals (from Russia and elsewhere) who are complicit in human rights abuses and corruption from traveling to the West, owning assets in the West and using the financial system of the West. Boris Nemtsov, then Russia's opposition leader (who played a key role in convincing Congress to pass the law in 2012), called the Magnitsky Act "the most pro-Russian law in the history of any foreign Parliament."

It was the smartest approach to sanctions. It avoided the mistake of targeting Russian citizens at large for the actions of a small corrupt clique in the Kremlin and placed responsibility directly where it is due. It was also the most effective approach. The people who are in charge of Russia today pose as patriots, but they care little about

the country. They view it merely as a looting ground, where they can amass personal fortunes at the expense of Russian taxpayers and then transfer those fortunes to the West. In one of his anti-corruption reports, Nemtsov detailed the unexplained riches attained by Putin's personal friends such as Gennady Timchenko, Yuri Kholodchuk and the Rotenberg brothers, noting that they are likely "no more than the nominal owners ... and the real ultimate beneficiary is Putin himself." Similar suspicions were voiced after the publication of the 2016 Panama Papers, which showed a \$2 billion offshore trail leading to another close Putin friend, cellist Sergei Rodnigin. Some of the funds in his accounts were linked with money from the tax fraud scheme uncovered by Magnitsky.

Volumes of research, hours of expert testimony and countless policy recommendations have been dedicated to finding effective Western approaches to Act that was the subject of the 2016 Trump Tower meeting attended by a Kremlin-linked lawyer; it is advocating for the Magnitsky Act that may soon land any Russian citizen in prison. It was the Magnitsky Act that Putin named as the biggest threat to his regime

as he stood by Trump's side in Helsinki.

After the Trump-Putin meeting, the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office released the names of U.S. citizens it wants to question as supposed associates of Browder. The list leaves no doubt as to the nature of the "crime." It includes Michael McPaul, senior director for Russia policy at the Obama White House and later U.S. ambassador in Moscow who oversaw the "compiling of memos to the State Department ... on the investigation in the Magnitsky case." It includes David Kramer, former assistant secretary of state in the George W. Bush administration, who, as president of Freedom House between 2010 and 2014, was one of the most effective advocates for the Magnitsky Act. Perhaps most tellingly, it includes Kyle Parker, now chief of staff at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, who, as the lead Russia staffer at the commission, wrote the bill that became the Magnitsky Act.

Putin has left no doubt: The biggest threat to his regime is the Magnitsky Act, which stops its beneficiaries from doing what has long become their raison d'être — stealing in Russia and spending in the West. It is time for more Western nations to adopt this law — and for the six countries that already have it to implement it with vigor and resolve.

Vladimir Kara-Murza is vice chairman of the Open Russia movement and chairman of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom.

Number of disabled vets to get tax refunds jolts law's backers

By TOM PHILPOTT

Special to Stars and Stripes

Nineteen months ago, as Congress considered the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016, lawmakers shepherding the bill (HR 5015) toward enactment advised that perhaps 13,800 veterans had taxes mistakenly withheld from lump-sum disability separation payments and would get refunds.

The average amount of taxes withheld was estimated at \$5,500, proponents said, and the total cost to the U.S. Treasury would be less than \$78 million.

My, my, were those projections off the mark.

The Defense Department and Internal Revenue Service announced last week that almost 10 times that number of disabled veterans — just over 130,000 — are due tax refunds under the 2016 law, which Congress passed to correct a long-tolerated flaw in tax withholding practices for disability severance pay.

We will describe below the process IRS is using to notify eligible veterans they are due tax refunds, and how, to allow prompt payment with minimum paperwork, veterans can accept a "standard" refund that the IRS calculated, based on the year disability severance was paid rather than actual taxes withheld.

First, some background on how so many came to qualify for tax refunds.

A few years back the National Veterans Legal Services Program, or NVLSP, a veteran advocacy group, discovered during routine reviews of veterans' legal cases that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, or DFAS, had been using an outdated process to determine tax withholding on military disability severance payments.

Members with service-connected conditions rated at less than 30 percent disabling are separated with a lump-sum severance. The ailments or injuries are insufficiently grave to qualify for disability retirement.

MILITARY UPDATE

These lump-sum amounts generally are taxable. The lone course veterans had to avoid the taxes was to show the IRS that their disability was combat-related — either caused by a combat injury, an accident tied to an instrumentality of war or an injury from training for war.

Disability severance recipients would have to gather documents to prove the injuries were combat-related and then file amended income tax returns for refunds.

In 1991, however, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia ruled in *St. Clair v. U.S.* that disability severance pay for personal injury from active service was excludable from taxable income if the separating member was later awarded Department of Veterans Affairs compensation for the same disability.

The decision meant thousands of veterans who had taxes withheld by the DFAS on their lump-sum disability severance would be eligible for tax refunds once they began receiving VA disability compensation. Trouble is, relatively few veterans knew to apply for a refund or the value of doing so. The DFAS, it seems, had no software in place to notify such members of the effect of qualifying for VA disability compensation.

For a time, the NVLSP considered a lawsuit against the department to force it to establish procedures so that disability severance recipients were advised when and how to seek refunds of taxes withheld.

Instead, said Bart Stichman, the program's executive director, it hired a law firm to lobby Congress for a legislative solution. Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark.; Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va.; and Rep. David Rouzer, R-N.C., led the effort to get tax refunds for these veterans. The impact was far more sweeping than anticipated.

A staff member for Boozman recalled Defense Department officials arguing that so few veterans would be eligible for re-

funds that legislation might be more trouble to implement than it was worth. She also recalled the Congressional Budget Office delivered an early cost estimate for corrective legislation that was less than \$500,000, too modest to be a factor in debating merits of the bill.

By early December 2016, during floor debate on the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act, the cost estimate had been raised to \$78 million on a new projection that 13,800 veterans would qualify for refunds and the average amount of taxes improperly withheld since 1991 was \$5,500. The bill cleared both chambers of Congress without dissent. The new law gave the DOD and the IRS a year to identify veterans due tax refunds, to reshape tax regulations to facilitate payment and to notify veterans of how to secure refunds.

Proponents of the law, including the NVLSP, were surprised last week when the IRS announced 130,000 veterans are due a refund for taxes withheld from their disability severance payments. Though six months later, notification letters have been sent to last known addresses that IRS has for veterans who received disability severance and later qualified for VA disability pay.

As the letter explains, the qualified veteran, or survivor, can file an amended tax return for the year the member received lump sum severance if they saved their original tax notification letters and appropriate documents on earned income from that year to allow recalculation of actual tax refund due. Believing that path won't be practical for many veteran taxpayers, the IRS also calculated a standard refund for eligible veterans based on the year they received their disability severance. The IRS estimates that for 2005; \$2,400 for tax years 2006 to 2010, and \$3,200 for tax years 2011 to 2016.

"That's fantastic for our veterans who have been identified as having this severance pay taxed, and also now are able to receive a tax refund," said Army Lt. Col. David Dwyer, Department of Defense's Armed Forces Tax Council. "Because, all

they have to do is fill in the amount [IRS has identified] on Form 1040X."

If all 130,000 veterans opt for the standard refund amount, assuming a proportional distribution of severance payments across years since 1991, veterans soon will receive at least \$280 million in refunds, more than three times what lawmakers assumed when they passed the law in December 2016.

Stichman, with the NVLSP, said the notification letters tell veterans the amount they received in disability severance pay and the year it was paid. But he is disappointed the letter doesn't advise veterans on the amount of taxes withheld. "If they're informed of that amount, it would help them decide whether to go for the standard amount or not," Stichman said.

Dulaney said the letter provides these veterans with all the information the law requires to be able to seek a refund of taxes withheld from disability severance.

The amount of tax actually withheld on disability severance "does not necessarily equal the amount a veteran would be entitled to in a tax refund," he said. The refund owed would be based on individual tax circumstances "including all tax payments made from all sources of income" in the year severance was paid.

If the veteran has sufficient tax information to complete Form 1040X, and would like to claim a refund greater than the standard amount calculated by IRS, the notification letter advises how to do that. Dulaney said.

Veterans can get more information on the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act and procedures for filing claims by going to www.irs.gov and searching for "Combat Injured Veterans." Also, the DFAS website has a special section on Combat-Injured Veterans taxpayers at https://www.dfas.mil/dsp_irs.html.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

PACIFIC

RIMPAC 2018

Marines wrap up Big Island phase of multinational drills

BY MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

POHAUKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — A multinational amphibious force is preparing to leave the wind-swept lava fields of Hawaii's Big Island and board ships for the next phase of the Rim of the Pacific exercise.

Twenty-five nations, more than 45 surface ships and submarines, 17 national land forces, 200-plus aircraft and 25,000 personnel are involved in the drills, which are scheduled to run through Aug. 2 in Hawaii and Southern California.

Brig. Gen. Mark Hashimoto, the senior Marine at RIMPAC, said Wednesday that Big Island training involving 2,000 troops has improved communication with partner nations. Each company from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment has trained with two or three other nations' amphibious forces.

"We learn as much from them as they do from us," he said, stressing the other forces' counterterrorism experience.

Six other marine corps and four other countries whose soldiers routinely operate aboard ship are involved in the drills, Hashimoto added.

The Philippine Marine Corps, which is used to fighting Islamic insurgents, is participating for the first time. So is the Sri Lankan Marine Corps, which was formed in February 2017, he said.

"These partner nations are here not because they are invited but because they want to be here," Hashimoto said.

Philippine Marine Master Sgt. Rambla Bale said the weather in Hawaii is cooler than he's used to.

"We're exchanging ideas ... we're conversing about family and food," he said of the training.

On Thursday, Indonesian Marine Capt. Yeyen Tuhardj and his buddies fired their 105mm artillery alongside U.S. M777 Howitzers as helicopters buzzed overhead in an air and ground artillery attack.

"This is the first time we've shot over here — I'm really happy," he said. "I hope at the next RIMPAC my artillery gun is shooting here again."

When they weren't training, Tongan troops sang songs and Filipinos cooked traditional food. A spontaneous arm wrestling match sprang up between four nations after Sunday's field dinner.

By Friday, the Marines were preparing to leave their base camp 6,300 feet above sea level and board ships from Task Force 176 commanded by Australian commodore Ivan Ingham. At sea, they'll get ready for an amphibious invasion of nearby Oahu and an air assault of Kauai by the end of the month.

fichtl.marcus@stripes.com
Twitter: @MarcusFichtl



Clockwise from top: Marines at the Rim of the Pacific exercise; the Philippines Marine Corps; New Zealand Marines; and a simulated AT



From top left: A U.S. Marine arm wrestles an Indonesian Marine during the Pacific exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, on July 15. Marines conduct a range exercise with U.S. Marine coaches. A New York Times observer calls in an airstrike. U.S., Chilean, Philippine and South Korean Marines await marching orders. A U.S. Marine rushes down a range with a M249 during the exercise. Indonesian Marines enjoy hot chow.

Photos by Marcus Fichtl/Stars and Stripes

FACES

GOING WITH THE FLOW



Def Leppard lead singer Joe Elliott performs in London's Wembley Arena in 2015.

ZUMA PRESS/TNS

Def Leppard's Joe Elliott talks about band's decision to embrace streaming

By RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

Over a four-decade career as lead singer for Def Leppard, Joe Elliott has sung about sugar, passion killers, hypnosis, "magical mystery," pyromania, being brought to his knees by love and riding on a nightmare machine. But until recently, Elliott and band, which formed in Sheffield, England, in the late '70s, didn't think much of music streaming.

Long after holdouts Led Zeppelin, the Beatles, Metallica and AC/DC remastered and unlocked their music, Def Leppard steadfastly refused to cave until it was able to negotiate what the band considered equitable compensation from Universal Music.

The two sealed a deal late last year, and soon after, the band's music shot to the top of the rock charts as though this were 1983. Since then, sticky-sweet rock songs such as "Rock of Ages," "Photograph" and "Four Some Sugar on Me" — which remain staples on heartland FM rock stations — have earned millions of streams.

It's a busy summer for Elliott, who's on tour with Journey. He recently stopped by The Times' offices to discuss the band's decision to finally release its classic albums to streaming services.

Los Angeles Times: You were one of the last of the major rock bands to make your music available to streaming services. What took so long?

Elliott: Our record deal with Universal was signed on the fifth of August 1979, and you might think I'm a nerd for remembering these dates, but it's more the fact that on the fourth of August, we saw Led Zeppelin at Knebworth, which is a mighty big deal.

Because we signed a deal in '79, there was no digital [agreement] in place, because there was no digital. Our contract with them was purely for the physical. When we did kind of iron out a deal for [streaming] in about 2010, it got torn from underneath us by previous regimes — let's put it that way. That put us in a bit of a bad mood. We said, "OK, well, we'll just do our own thing."

You re-recorded "Hysteria" and "Rock of Ages."

Yes, we did some re-records and we were putting those up online and they were doing really, really well — and we owned them. So it was like, "Well, we don't need the back catalog then." We weren't hurting. People may have wanted it, but we weren't prepared to compromise.

What changed?

The old regime left, and then the new regime came back to our management and

said, "We need to re-look at this deal." And we weren't trying to screw with [Universal] — which would be novel anyway, a band screwing a record company.

When your original albums did arrive on streaming platforms, they shot to the top of the rock charts.

I was flattered, humbled, heartened, excited — you name every positive emotion you can think of. And it's so instant. Back in the day, you'd put your record out and then it's like, "What's happening?" You'd be waiting for these telexes to come out of the machine the size of 10 washing machines.

And now — when we were in New York launching it and within a day, me and [Def Leppard manager Mike Kobayashi] were in the car looking at the numbers, and he'd go like, "Check it out," and showed a screen shot of the Apple chart. We had nine albums in the top 20 rock charts overnight. And I say the word "overnight," but it's over minutes.

You can geo-locate, so they can tell you where it was streaming the most, what genre and age they are, how, why. And the fact that we were finding out that certain cities in the world were streaming us way more than cities that we thought would be big. It's like the opposite sex to what we thought, the opposite age group to what we thought.

Walter White might appear in 'Better Call Saul,' creator says

"Breaking Bad" is gone, but Walter White might be coming back to television.

"Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan said July 19 at Comic-Con in San Diego that there is an excellent chance that the Bryan Cranston character and Aaron Paul's Jesse Pinkman will be in the show's spinoff "Better Call Saul" at some point.

Gilligan, Cranston and Paul were joined by many of their fellow "Breaking Bad" castmates in the convention's 6,500-seat Hall H to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the show.

Gilligan said the characters will not appear in season 4 of "Better Call Saul" when it picks up in August.

"We don't want to jerk folks around," Gilligan said. "But we would be sorely remiss if these characters didn't appear in the show before it ended."

"Better Call Saul" is a prequel spinoff of "Breaking Bad" that tracks the rise of a struggling lawyer played by Bob Odenkirk into the go-to attorney for top criminals in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Breaking Bad" aired for five seasons on AMC, earning Cranston four outstanding drama actor Emmy Awards for his role as White. Paul won three supporting actor Emmys.

Fans go wild for first female 'Doctor Who'

Some 6,500 Comic-Con attendees cheered on the 13th "Doctor Who," Jodie Whittaker, on July 19 in San Diego in her first public appearance since getting the coveted role.



Whittaker

Whittaker is the first woman to play the role, which has also been occupied recently by Peter Capaldi and Matt Smith.

The English actress described the Comic-Con experiences as "loud" and "amazing" and says she has felt "lots of support."

Whittaker said it was "incredibly emotional" when her casting was announced a year ago. She said she knew that being the first female Doctor would have extra responsibility thrown in, but that she and her co-stars are standing on the shoulders of the 12 previous Doctors.

"Hopefully we make them all proud," Whittaker said.

New showrunner Chris Chibnall told The Associated Press that switching up the Doctor's gender was the "easiest decision ever."

"The world was ready, the show was ready, the audience was ready, and the BBC were totally behind it from the start and then it was the question of finding the right person for the role and we had a great list of people and we got the best person for the part," Chibnall said. "I think audiences are really going to fall in love with her this year."

From The Associated Press



Common

Rapper Common drops by school to drop cash

Associated Press

Rapper Common has won three Grammys, a Golden Globe and an Academy Award, but said that a recent visit to a New York City school was humbling — mainly because many of the students were too young to know his music.

The award-winner showed up at P.S. 111 in midtown Manhattan on July 19 as an ambassador for the Adopt-A-Classroom initiative. He made the surprise appearance with his mother, Dr. Mahalia Hines, to present the school with a \$10,000 check.

While Common has a diverse fan base, it probably doesn't include many fourth and fifth graders. He joked about their reaction when he was introduced.

"The kids they were looking like, 'Who is this dude? We don't know him.' But I'm still just here

to connect with children, and connect with the people and our teachers," Common said.

According to Adopt-A-Classroom, 96 percent of teachers nationwide bear the cost each year to equip their classrooms with the basic materials students need to learn. The organization estimates that teachers spend more than \$700 out of their own pocket each year. The program provides funds for teachers to purchase school supplies.

After addressing the students in the school's gymnasium, Common went upstairs to visit a classroom. He shared his love of writing, and even recited the lyrics to his acclaimed hit, "Black America Again."

"When I saw the kids I really was just trying to let them know we were here because we care and that we value them and that they have the world at their hands," he said.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Analysts: Tariff threats unlikely to yield deals

By Christopher Rugaber
and Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With President Donald Trump intensifying his rift with U.S. trading partners, economists are growing more doubtful that any deal that might benefit American workers and companies is in sight.

Instead, many analysts say they expect the Trump administration to impose more tariffs on China and potentially other key U.S. trading partners. With those nations almost certain to retaliate, the result could be higher prices for Americans, diminished export sales and a weaker U.S. economy by next year.

In an interview with CNBC last week, Trump renewed his threat to ultimately slap tariffs on a total of \$500 billion of imports from China — roughly equal to all the goods Beijing ships annually to the United States. The president has already imposed tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese goods, and Beijing has retaliated with tariffs on an equal amount of American

exports. The White House has also itemized \$200 billion of additional Chinese imports that it said may be subject to tariffs.

In addition, Trump has told the Commerce Department to investigate whether imported autos and auto parts threaten America's national security — the same justification the president invoked to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum. If the answer is yes, the administration says it could slap 20 to 25 percent tariffs on \$335 billion of auto imports. Higher car prices for American consumers would inevitably follow.

Analysts say they're becoming more convinced that Trump's multi-front trade fights aren't merely a short-term negotiating ploy. Rather, he may be prepared to wait as long as he feels it necessary to force other countries to adopt trade rules more favorable to the United States.

"People are underestimating what we're headed for," said Rod Hunter, a lawyer who served as a White House economic adviser under President George W. Bush. "He's been saying since the '80s

that trade deals are bad and we should have more tariffs, and that's what we're getting."

Moody's Analytics estimates that if the tariffs were imposed on autos and most Chinese imports and other countries retaliate as expected, annual U.S. growth would slow by 0.5 percentage point by mid-2019. It expects that 700,000 jobs would be lost.

Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and formerly deputy director general of the World Trade Organization, said Trump appears to think that America's trading partners will yield to pressure without securing any concessions in return. "That isn't how trade negotiations work," Yerxa said.

China will likely retaliate if additional tariffs are imposed, economists note, rather than simply knuckle under. President Xi Jinping "cannot lose face with his own people by giving in to the United States," said David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and U.S. Treasury Department.

Philip Levy, a trade expert at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former White House trade adviser, suggested that Chinese officials have been frustrated and confused by their previous failed efforts to reach an agreement.

After Beijing offered this past spring to buy more natural gas and farm goods from the U.S. to narrow the trade deficit, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the trade war was "on hold."

China also said it would reduce its auto tariffs from 25 to 15 percent.

Yet Trump soon intensified his tariff threats anyway.

"The Chinese are not clear what the United States wants," said Scott Kennedy, who studies the Chinese economy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "They've received conflicting messages depending on who they speak with."

The administration says it wants China to end the theft of intellectual property from U.S. companies and curb policies that require American and other foreign businesses to hand over tech-

nology in exchange for access to the Chinese market. Yet any such agreement would require extensive talks over how it would be implemented and verified.

"There's no negotiating going on that I can see," Dollar said.

In the CNBC interview, Trump reiterated his complaints about America's gaping trade gap with China, even though reforming China's technology policies wouldn't likely narrow the trade deficit.

"We are being taken advantage of, and I don't like it," Trump said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 23)	\$1.2008
Dollar buys (July 23)	69.8328
British pound (July 23)	\$1.34
Japanese yen (July 23)	110.00
South Korean won (July 23)	1,079.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.3780
British pound	\$1.3134
Canada (dollar)	1.3131
China (Yuan)	6.7735
Denmark (Krone)	6.547
Egypt (Pound)	17.8976
Euro	\$1.1726/0.8528
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8502
Hungary (Forint)	278.01
Israel (Shekel)	3.6299
Japan (Yen)	111.52
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3028
Norway (Krone)	8.1776
Philippines (Peso)	53.34
Poland (Zloty)	3.69
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7500
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3625
South Korea (Won)	1,129.01
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9924
Thailand (Baht)	33.35
Turkey (Lira)	4.7955
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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal Reserve market rate	1.90
3-month bill	1.88
30-year bond	3.03

Manley's Fiat Chrysler role a turning point for carmaker

Associated Press

The nomination of Mike Manley as CEO of Fiat Chrysler marks a turning point for the carmaker, putting a brand with historic Italian roots in the hands of someone with no ties to Italy — a Brit who showed his mettle by growing the quintessentially American Jeep into a global brand.

Manley has been one of the closest collaborators with the company's longtime leader, Sergio Marchionne, and had been seen as a possible successor since Marchionne announced in January that he planned to step down next year. Those plans were pushed up

Saturday after Marchionne's health deteriorated following surgery.

Manley, 54, also headed the Ram truck brand, which together with Jeep have been the focus of Fiat Chrysler's growth strategy in North America, whose market represents two-thirds of Fiat Chrysler's earnings.

"The success of the Jeep brand under Mike Manley and his global background make him the smart choice to be the new head of FCA," said Karl Brauer, executive publisher of Autotrader and Kelley Blue Book. "His international experience in growing that brand will play a key role as he applies those techniques

to all of the Fiat Chrysler divisions."

Manley had joined the company in 2000. He took over management of the Jeep brand in 2009, just after Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy protection funded by the U.S. government. At the time, the all-SUV Jeep mainly was a U.S. brand, where sales languished at around 232,000 for the year.

By 2017, though, sales had nearly quadrupled to more than 828,000 as Americans snapped up all-wheel-drive SUVs. The brand also grew internationally, especially in China, under Manley, and has a special goal of hitting 2 million in sales worldwide this year.

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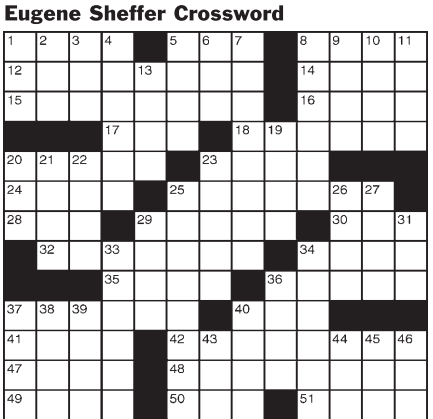
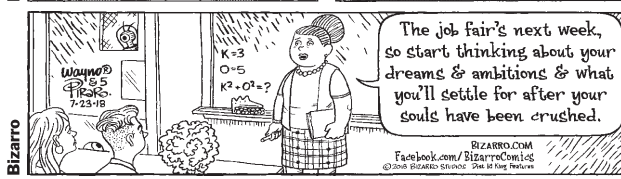
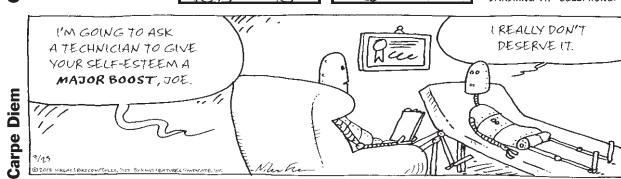
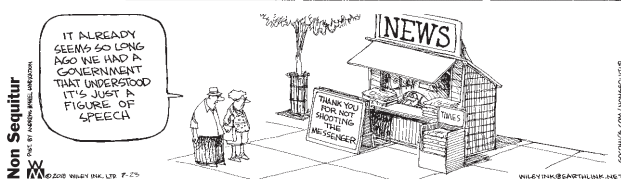
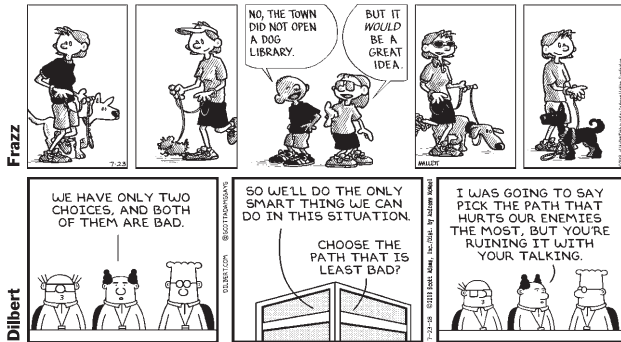
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 - 12 Florida city
 - 14 — Hari
 - 15 Tip for a waitperson
 - 16 Intends
 - 17 Texas tea
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- 50 Ballot markings
 - 51 Sticky substances
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 - 29 Wee songbird
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 - 33 Actress Silverstone
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 - 37 Breathing (Abbr.)
 - 38 Buffalo's lake
 - 39 Puglist's weapon
 - 40 Till bills
 - 43 Gorilla
 - 44 Jurist Lance
 - 45 As well
 - 46 Decade parts (Abbr.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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Announcements 040

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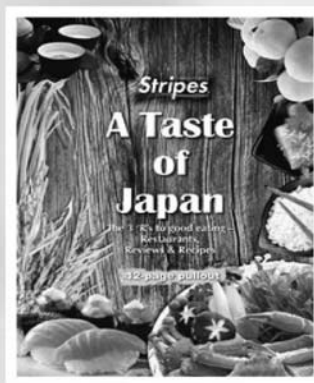
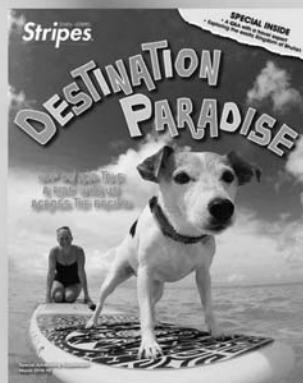
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TOUR DE FRANCE/SPORTS BRIEFS



PETER DEJONG/AP

Denmark's Magnus Cort Nielsen clenches his fist as he crosses the finish line to win the fifteenth stage of the Tour de France on Sunday in Carcassonne, France.

Dane claims 15th stage

By JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

CARCASSONNE, France — Magnus Cort Nielsen of Denmark sprinted away from two other challengers to win Stage 15 of the Tour de France on Sunday, while Geraint Thomas had no trouble holding the overall lead for a fourth consecutive day.

The Astana rider claimed his first career win at the Tour after staying ahead of Ion Izagirre and Bauke Mollema in a sprint over the final 200 meters. Cort Nielsen finished the hilly 112.7-mile leg from Millau that ended in a long descent to Carcassonne in 4 hours, 25 minutes.

"I always kept a little back so I was able to respond if they attacked," said the 25-year-old Cort Nielsen, who won two stages of the Spanish Vuelta in 2016.

Thomas in the yellow jersey, second-placed Chris Froome, and the rest of the overall contenders arrived at Carcassonne and its medieval city walls 13 minutes after the stage winner.

Thomas kept his advantage of 1 minute, 39 seconds over teammate and defending champion Froome before the race's second rest day on Monday.

"We were always in control," Thomas said. "We were always in the right place, and it's a good day to get done."

That pause precedes three mountain stages in the Pyrenees, followed by the individual time trial on the penultimate day of the race.

"There are three big, big days left, and then the time trial, so (I) just take each day as it comes and we will see what happens," Thomas said.

It was a placid ride for Thomas before the decisive final week.

The only serious attack by a top-10 rider in the overall standings came from Daniel Martin, the UAE Emirates leader, who tried a getaway while going up



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Team Sky rider Geraint Thomas, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, and Tour de France defending champion Chris Froome, to his right, set the pace for the pack during the race on Sunday.

the Pic de Nore but was reeled in on the way down.

A breakaway group of 29 riders — none of whom posed a threat to Thomas' overall lead — got away early.

Cort Nielsen, Izagirre and Mollema dropped the five other remaining escapees before disrupting the stage win among themselves. With all three riders sizing one another up, Cort Nielsen stayed in front when they finally broke into a sprint.

The racing returns on Tuesday with Stage 16, a 135.5-mile mountain trek from Carcassonne to Bagnères-de-Luchon.

Spectators continue to taunt Chris Froome along the roads of the Tour de France after the four-time champion was cleared of doping.

Prior to the start of the stage, one spectator leaned over the bar-

riers toward Froome and made a gesture like he was injecting his arm.

Throughout the race, spectators have voiced their disapproval of the Team Sky rider.

A cloud had hung over Froome after a urine sample taken during the Spanish Vuelta in September showed a concentration of the asthma drug salbutamol that was twice the permitted level.

Tour organizers had informed Froome that he wasn't welcome at this year's race until the International Cycling Union announced five days before the event started that Froome's result did not represent an adverse finding.

Froome is aiming to join Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain as the only riders to win the Tour five times.

Briefly

Vikings assistant Sparano dies at 56

Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings say offensive line coach Tony Sparano has died at the age of 56.

The Vikings say Sparano died early Sunday but did not give a cause of death. He had been the Vikings' offensive line coach since 2016.

Sparano began his NFL coaching career in 1999 and had stints as a head coach with the Miami Dolphins and Oakland Raiders.

He was the Dolphins' head coach from 2008-11 and went 29-32. He went 11-5 and won the AFC East in his first season with the Dolphins.

Sparano also spent time with the Browns, Redskins, Jaguars, Cowboys and 49ers.

He played at the University of New Haven where he was a four-year letterman. Sparano was hired as New Haven's head coach in 1994 and held that position for five seasons.

Sparano is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Lincincome misses cut in PGA Tour event

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. — Brittany Lincincome walked off the 18th green after her first PGA Tour event to applause before stopping on the way to the clubhouse to sign autographs and acknowledge spectators' warm wishes.

The LPGA Tour player made sure to savor every moment of a historic weekend she wished could have lasted longer.



ALEX SLITZ, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/AP

Brittany Lincincome signs autographs for fans following the second round of the PGA Tour's Barbasol Championship in Nicholasville, Ky., on Saturday.

"I would've liked to have shot better [Thursday]," said Lincincome, who missed the cut at the Barbasol Championship after shooting a 1-under 71 on Saturday. She failed in her bid to become the first female player since 1945 to make the cut in a PGA Tour event.

Meanwhile, the crowd atop the leaderboard includes one of Lincincome's playing partners.

Robert Streb, six-time PGA Tour winner Hunter Mahan, Tom Lovelady and Troy Merritt shared the lead at 18 under after a busy day in which much of the field had to complete the rain-delayed first round before starting the second. Merritt tied the course with a first-round 62 on Thursday.

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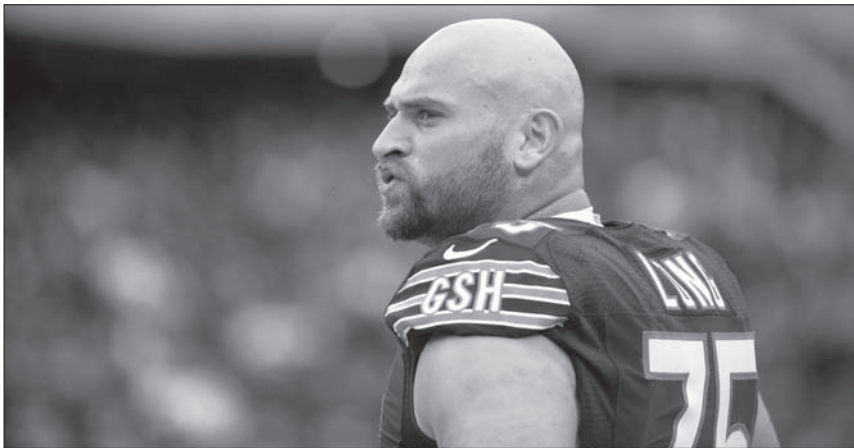
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NFL/MLB



CHRIS SWEDA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Chicago Bears offensive tackle Kyle Long is "feeling great" and ready to put two injury-riddled seasons behind him as he looks to help the Bears break a streak of four straight last-place finishes in the NFC North and five consecutive seasons without a winning record.

Bears' Long feels rejuvenated, older

Injuries behind him, three-time Pro Bowl offensive lineman returns as grizzled vet

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. — Chicago Bears guard Kyle Long showed up to training camp feeling rejuvenated — and a bit old.

The three-time Pro Bowl offensive lineman is healthy after two injury-riddled seasons and has his sights set on helping lift a struggling franchise. But while he is "feeling great," Long also sounded more like a grizzled veteran than a wide-eyed rookie.

Pin that on some of his teammates.

"I don't know half of the references they make to pop culture," Long said. "I used to understand all the rap songs, and I don't understand half of them now, unless I listen to Future. They're just young guys, just young dudes. ... You watch them play and you're like, 'Wow.' We're really lucky to have these young players. [Gen-

'I don't know half of the references they make to pop culture. ... They're just young guys, just young dudes.'

Kyle Long

29-year-old Chicago Bears offensive lineman, on his younger teammates

eral manager Ryan Pace] has done a great job bringing in a lot of talent."

The moves Pace made in the offseason have the Bears thinking bigger things are in store after four straight last-place finishes in the NFC North and five consecutive seasons without a winning record.

They're banking on quarterback Mitchell Trubisky after trading up a spot to draft him with the No. 2 overall pick last year. Pace set out to surround him with the pieces he needs to succeed.

The most notable addition was

former Jacksonville Jaguars Pro Bowl receiver Allen Robinson. He tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in last year's opener and missed the remainder of the season.

Chicago also brought in former Philadelphia tight end Trey Burton, who threw a memorable touchdown pass to quarterback Nick Foles in the Eagles' Super Bowl victory over New England, and Atlanta receiver Taylor Gabriel.

With Jordan Howard and Tarik Cohen at running back, the Bears believe they have a deep and po-

tentially explosive offense. And a healthy Long at right guard sure would help open holes for them, not to mention protect Trubisky.

At 29, he has been limited to 18 games over the past two seasons after appearing in 47 of a possible 48 while making the Pro Bowl his first three years. The 6-foot-6, 316-pound Long has undergone shoulder, elbow and neck surgeries since he last played on Dec. 3.

Long's return brings leadership to an offense with young players in key spots. Trubisky (23), Robinson (24), Howard (23) and Cohen (22) are all under 25.

"[Long is] an imposing figure, a big guy who can move," new head coach Matt Nagy said. "He's athletic. The other thing I like about Kyle is that he's a leader. He takes control of that offensive line. So he's just going to continue to keep doing that and when we get out here with the pads, you'll be able to see some of that strength."

A's boost bullpen, acquire Familia

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After three years of missing the playoffs and dealing away fan favorites like Yoenis Cespedes, Josh Donaldson and Sonny Gray, the Oakland Athletics are trying to steer themselves in the opposite direction.

They certainly took a significant step Saturday by acquiring New York Mets reliever Jeurys Familia to bolster a bullpen that includes All-Star closer Blake Treinen.

"You always want to be in this position where you're potentially adding,"

A's manager Bob Melvin said. "We've had three years where it's been just the opposite. Three weeks ago, maybe this isn't a conversation. But the way the team's played in the last month put us in a position to be able to do something like this."

New York gets two minor leaguers for its closer, Triple-A right-hander Bobby Wahl and Class A third baseman Will Toffey, and \$1 million in international signing bonus pool allotment. Wahl appeared in seven big league games for the A's last year.

Traditionally sellers at the deadline, the A's overcame a slow start and are in the midst of the wild-card picture in the American League.

"We thought he was the best guy out there," Oakland general manager David Forst said. "Adding a reliever right now was the best option and we thought Jeurys was the best guy. We've been talking to the Mets for a while, and we're happy that it came together."



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MLB

Springer, Verlander send Astros past Angels

10th shutout victory of season for Houston

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Justin Verlander hadn't earned a win in the past six starts of his All-Star season. George Springer hadn't homered or contributed many game-changing hits in the last month.

Those are the closest things to crises in the charmed world of the Houston Astros, and the two stars dramatically ended their droughts in another blowout.

Springer hit a grand slam while the Astros batted around in the sixth inning, and Verlander

ended his winless skid with 11 strikeouts over six dominant innings in Houston's 7-0 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday night.

Just about everything clicked for the defending World Series champions in their fourth win in five games, extending the second-best start in franchise history to 66-35. Houston earned its 10th shutout victory of the season, matching Boston for the AL lead. Four batters after Josh Reddick homered to lead off the sixth, Springer delivered his fifth



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Houston second baseman Jose Altuve fields a ball hit for a single by Los Angeles Angels' Ian Kinsler during the second inning of Saturday's game in Anaheim, Calif. The Astros won 7-0.

career grand slam on a full count against reliever Noe Ramirez. Springer had driven in only five runs in his previous 24 games.

Verlander (10-5) yielded five hits while getting ample support in his third win over Los Angeles already this season. He has thrown 23 consecutive scoreless innings over his last three starts

at Angel Stadium, including a five-hit shutout on May 16.

Verlander leaned heavily on his fastball, including a 99-mph dart in the fourth to strike out Ian Kinsler, his longtime teammate in Detroit, with two runners on. Kinsler is impressed by the continuing excellence of his fellow 30-something veteran.

"He's been pretty fastball-dominant this year, and he's got a good fastball and he uses it well," Kinsler said.

Verlander hadn't won since June 14 despite setting career bests for strikeouts, ERA and opponents' batting average before the break. The All-Star right-hander walked two and allowed just one runner

to reach third base.

Shohei Ohtani had two doubles as the Angels (49-50) dropped below .500 for the first time since the season opener. Los Angeles has scored one run in the first 18 innings after the break in what's looking like yet another lost season for a franchise that hasn't won a playoff game since 2009.

Roundup

Shreve unlikely hero for Yankees in Subway Series win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aroldis Chapman had flamed out, throwing three of 19 pitches for strikes and enabling the Mets to cut a four-run, ninth-inning deficit in half.

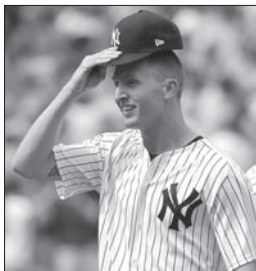
Chasen Shreve to the rescue. Yes, Chasen Shreve.

Maligned last month, Shreve entered with the bases loaded, got Devin Mesoraco to hit into a run-scoring, double-play grounder and retired Wilmer Flores on a slow roller in front of the mound.

With his second big league save and first since August 2016, Shreve preserved a 7-6 Subway Series victory Saturday that enabled Sonny Gray (7-7) to win consecutive starts for the first time since the Yankees acquired him last summer.

On another tumult-filled day for the last-place Mets, closer Jeurys Familia was traded to Oakland for a pair of minor leaguers and slugging outfielder Yoenis Cespedes was out of the lineup because of body soreness, one game after returning from a two-month absence. Cespedes said Friday night he may need surgery on both heels that would require an eight-to-10-month recovery.

Aaron Judge homered for the Yankees, who trailed after Michael Conforto's second-inning solo homer but rallied against Steven Matz (4-8) with a four-run fourth



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Yankees relief pitcher Chasen Shreve tips his cap as he walks off the field at the end of Saturday's game against the Mets at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Athletics 4, Giants 3 (11): Jonathan Lucroy singled home Matt Chapman with two outs in the 11th inning to give Oakland a victory over San Francisco in front of the largest crowd to watch a baseball game at the Coliseum.

The A's improved to a major league-best 22-7 since June 16 with their third win in

five games against their Northern California rivals.

Cubs 7, 3; Cardinals 2, 6: Matt Carpenter homered for the sixth consecutive game and Paul DeJong hit a tiebreaking double in St. Louis' three-run ninth inning, helping the Cardinals beat host Chicago to split their day-night doubleheader.

The Cubs won the first game behind Tyler Chatwood (4-5), who earned his first win since May 11 in the makeup of an April 16 rainout.

Tigers 5, Red Sox 0: Jose Iglesias homered and drove in four runs, and Mike Fiers pitched impressively into the seventh inning to lead Detroit over visiting Boston.

The major league-leading Red Sox lost for just the second time in 15 games, and their AL East lead over the New York Yankees slipped to 4½ games.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 5: Tom Murphy's two-out, pinch-hit solo home run in the eighth inning lifted Colorado over host Arizona.

The Rockies overcame an early three-run deficit for their season-high seventh straight win. Colorado moved past Arizona into second place in the NL West and clinched its sixth consecutive series win, the first time the Rockies have accomplished that since 2014.

Brewers 4, Dodgers 2: Christian Yelich hit a tying home off Clayton Kershaw in a three-run sixth inning, and host Milwau-

kee snapped a seven-game losing streak with a win over Los Angeles.

Indians 16, Rangers 3: Yonder Alonso homered twice, Carlos Carrasco pitched into the seventh inning, and Cleveland scored in each of the last five innings of a win over host Texas.

White Sox 5, Mariners 0: Dylan Covey allowing two hits in 8½ innings against baffled Seattle hitters, Avisail Garcia hit a three-run homer in his return off the disabled list, and visiting Chicago beat the Mariners.

Pirates 6, Reds 2: Corey Dickerson hit two first-pitch home runs, rookie Nick Kingham overcame another Cincinnati rain delay to pitch six shutout innings and drive in two runs, and visiting Pittsburgh beat the Reds for its season-high eighth straight win.

Royals 4, Twins 2: Salvador Perez homered, reliever Brian Flynn picked up the win with three scoreless innings and host Kansas City beat Minnesota.

The Royals won back-to-back games for the first time since May 29-30.

Marlins 3, Rays 2: Rookie Pablo Lopez gave up three hits in six innings, Cameron Maybin homered and visiting Miami beat Tampa Bay.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 1: Marcus Stroman pitched seven sharp innings, Aledmys Diaz had two hits and host Toronto beat struggling Baltimore for the sixth straight time.

AUTO RACING



ELIZABETH FRANTZ, THE CONCORD MONITOR/AP

Christopher Bell celebrates Saturday after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H.

Bell wins second straight Xfinity race

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Christopher Bell has cracked the Cup supremacy in Xfinity.

The 23-year-old Bell held off hard-charging 2012 Cup champion Brad Keselowski over the final 18 laps at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to win his second straight Xfinity Series race.

Bell pulled off the towering achievement of winning two straight Xfinity races against former champs from NASCAR's top-tier series who moonlight on Saturdays. Bell topped 2015 Cup champion Kyle Busch to win last week's race at Kentucky Speedway and he followed up Saturday in the No. 20 Toyota by keeping Keselowski at bay down the stretch for his third win this season.

"You hope to race those guys at one point, so I'm thankful that

I get the opportunity here in the Xfinity Series to race with them and proud that I'm able to compete with them, let alone beat them," Bell said.

Keselowski had won the pole Saturday but was dropped to the rear of the field because he was late to the mandatory drivers' meeting. It proved to be nothing more than a mild inconvenience for Keselowski in the No. 22 Ford. He stormed past the second-tier regulars and had his fourth straight Xfinity win in sight.

Bell, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing, had the fresh tires that Keselowski needed and that was enough to ring in a victory lane celebration. Bell gave his checkered flag to a young fan in the stands.

"I hope it means a lot more to that kid than it is to me," he said. "You know, we get trophies, we hope

fully it means a lot to that kid."

JGR fields cars for Busch and Bell, one reason it's continued to have success in Xfinity.

"They've won before me, they're going to win after me," Bell said. "It's my job to make sure they win with me."

Ryan Prose, John Hunter Nemechek and Matt Tielt completed the top five to complete a solid showing for the Xfinity regulars. "You see all this crap going around the Internet that Cup guys shouldn't be allowed in Xfinity," Bell said. "Why?"

Because Xfinity is supposed to be the series where the stars of NASCAR's future are discovered. Instead, they spent this season looking up at Cup regulars Busch, Keselowski, Kevin Harvick, Kyle Larson, Joey Logano, Ryan Blaney and Austin Dillon as race winners.

But Bell said he wanted them in

Xfinity so he could race against the best drivers in NASCAR.

Busch led more than 100 laps last week at Kentucky before he faded late and Bell took advantage for the win. At New Hampshire, Bell was aided by four fresh tires down the stretch that helped make the difference.

Keselowski nipped at Bell's bumper over the final three laps but could never reel him in for the decisive pass.

Bell, the 2017 Truck Series champion, is certainly talented enough to find himself in a Cup ride the next few years. It's just a matter of where he'll fit in a series where top rides are scarce.

"Whenever you come to here, you step in this equipment at Joe Gibbs Racing, you're expected to win," he said. "Pressure's on for you to deliver and thankfully I've been able to deliver, at least some of the time."

Hamilton back on top of F1

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

HOCKENHEIM, Germany — Lewis Hamilton regained the championship lead in unexpected and dramatic fashion on Sunday, winning the German Grand Prix after Sebastian Vettel crashed while leading near the end.

Heavy rain played havoc late on at the Hockenheimring as Vettel misjudged a basic entry into a turn and slid over the gravel into the barriers with 15 laps to go.

The four-time Formula One champion started from pole position and seemed in control. He was livid with himself, kicking the gravel in frustration as he stepped out his car.

His mishap opened the door wide open for Hamilton.

The British driver was fourth at the time of the crash, having started from 14th on the grid because of a hydraulic problem in qualifying.

"You've always got to believe. I just wanted to stay collected, stay calm," said a delighted Hamilton, adding defiantly. "For those who don't know me, now you do."

Valtteri Bottas started and finished second on a great day for Mercedes, with Kimi Raikkonen taking third on a bad one for Ferrari.

Vettel's incident led to a safety car coming out for several laps.

There was confusion at Mercedes, even with Hamilton out in front.

Hamilton was told to come into the pits, but ignored his mechanic screaming "In, in, in!" at him.

When the race resumed, with about 10 laps left, Bottas almost overtook Hamilton.

Shortly after, Bottas was firmly told on team radio to "hold position" and not challenge Hamilton, who secured his fourth win of the season and 66th overall.

Change: Three-way race for Cup contributes to shrinking fan interest

FROM BACK PAGE

champion Tony Stewart owns the track and used his forum to push for the sport to at least bring the second-tier Xfinity Series to the dirt.

Like most issues facing NASCAR, few agree on any topic. Kyle Larson, a noted sprint car racer, said NASCAR should stay above the muck.

"I wouldn't like to see Cup on dirt," he said. "Cup belongs on pavement and real road course tracks. If we went to Eldora, yeah, I mean I would be excited because I would be really fast and I feel like I would definitely have the best shot to win. But at the same time, I think we are fine not going there."

The race winner at Eldora is awarded a Golden Shovel, which seems fitting because these days everyone is piling on NASCAR.

How low can they go? The ratings reports

could win a limbo contest with the regular bottoming out of all-time lows or decade-worst for most races. Kentucky had 2.3 million viewers Saturday on NBC Sports Network and Sportsmediawatch.com reported it was the 15th of 17 Cup races this season that had its ratings decline double-digits to multiyear lows.

It's no longer jarring to see empty swaths of grandstands at the track and longtime corporate giants such as Lowe's and 5-hour Energy that have helped fund championship drivers are set to sever its ties with NASCAR at the end of the season.

Kentucky was once NASCAR's shiny new toy when the Cup series moved there in 2011. The first race was a sellout, though it was marred by traffic jams that turned thousands away from the track. Last week, plenty of good seats were still available for a ho-hum race. The luster had worn off just as it has at Indianapolis Motor Speedway — which had its date moved this season

from July to early September and the final "regular season" race.

The competition has been reduced to three dominant drivers: Martin Truex Jr., Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch have combined to win 14 of 19 races. Clint Bowyer is the only other driver to win a non-restrictor plate race this season.

No surprise, Truex, Harvick and Busch went 1-2-3 on the leaderboard in the final Cup practice Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

The real fun in NASCAR comes in 280-character bursts on social media instead of 200 mph speeds on an oval.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., the 15-time most popular driver-turned NBC analyst, posed this question to consider, and it had nothing to do with who can beat the Big Three at New Hampshire:

"Can a driver wear his own throwback gear? I always get weird wearing stuff with

my own image or name on it. But it gets murky when it's a 20 year old throwback. Opinions please?" he tweeted.

More than 1,500 replies later — including a few from active NASCAR drivers — Earnhardt still wasn't sure if he should throw on his own throwback.

With little buzz at the track, the tremor on a mobile device of a tweet notification from a driver might be the best part of a race weekend for fans.

Tracks are trying anything to replicate that instant gratification. New Hampshire — which lost its fall race to Las Vegas — launched a "College Corner" this weekend "where the racing is loud and the party is lit!"

Cool. But don't expect those 20-something-to-easily vote in any Twitter fashion polls — the track doesn't have WiFi.

It's up to NASCAR to repair its lost connection with a fading fan base.

BRITISH OPEN

Scoreboard

Saturday

At Royal & Ancient Golf Club
Carnoustie, Scotland
Purse: \$10.5 million
Yardage: 7,402; Par: 71
Third Round
a-amateur

Jordan Spieth	72-67-65-204 -9
Xander Schauffele	71-66-67-204 -9
Kevin Kisner	66-70-68-204 -9
Kevin Chappell	70-69-67-206 -7
Francesco Molinari	70-72-65-207 -6
Tiger Woods	71-71-66-208 -5
Webb Simpson	70-71-67-208 -5
Alex Noren	70-71-67-208 -5
Matt Kuchar	70-68-70-208 -5
Rory McIlroy	69-69-70-208 -5
Tommy Fleetwood	72-65-71-208 -5
Zach Johnson	69-67-72-208 -5
Justin Rose	72-73-64-209 -4
Austin Cook	72-70-67-209 -4
Adam Scott	71-70-68-209 -4
Charley Hoffman	71-70-68-209 -4
Tony Finau	67-71-71-209 -4
Zander Lombard	67-71-71-209 -4
Erik van Rooyen	67-71-71-209 -4
Yusaku Miyazato	71-74-65-210 -3
Chris Wood	70-74-66-210 -3
Byeong Hun An	73-71-66-210 -3
Haotong Li	71-72-67-210 -3
Kyle Stanley	72-69-69-210 -3
Ryan Moore	68-73-69-210 -3
Danny Willett	69-71-70-210 -3
Thorbjorn Olesen	70-70-70-210 -3
Satoshi Kodaira	72-71-68-211 -2
Sean Crocker	71-71-69-211 -2
Louis Oosthuizen	72-70-69-211 -2
Shaun Norris	74-68-69-211 -2
Lucas Herbert	73-69-69-211 -2
Michael Kim	73-69-69-211 -2
Patrick Cantlay	70-71-70-211 -2
Eddie Pepperell	71-70-70-211 -2
Pat Perez	69-68-74-211 -1
Bernhard Langer	73-71-68-212 -1
Phil Mickelton	73-69-70-212 -1
Rickie Fowler	70-69-73-212 -1
Patrick Reed	75-70-68-213 E
Ross Fisher	75-70-68-213 E
Jason Dufner	75-70-68-213 E
Tom Lewis	75-70-68-213 E
Marc Leishman	72-72-69-213 E
Lee Westwood	72-72-69-213 E
Julian Suri	74-69-70-213 E
Thomas Pieters	70-73-70-213 E
Stewart Cink	72-70-71-213 E
Sung Kang	69-72-72-213 E
Brandon Stone	68-72-73-213 E
Adam Hladin	70-73-71-214 +1
Yuta Ikeda	70-73-71-214 +1
Marcus Knitl	74-69-71-214 +1
Jason Day	71-71-72-214 +1
Matthew Southgate	69-72-73-214 +1
Rhys Enoch	74-71-70-215 +2
a-Sam Locke	72-73-70-215 +2
Masahito Kawamura	72-73-71-215 +2
Shubhankar Sharma	71-71-71-215 +2
Gary Woodland	71-72-72-215 +2
Gavin Green	72-71-71-216 +3
Ryan Fox	70-75-71-216 +3
Henrik Stenson	74-71-71-216 +3
Paul Casey	73-72-72-216 +3
Brett Rumford	74-70-72-216 +3
Kevin Kisner	70-73-72-216 +3
Cameron Davis	71-73-72-216 +3
Brooks Koepka	72-69-75-216 +3
Tyrell Hatton	74-71-72-217 +4
Paul Dunne	71-73-73-217 +4
Cameron Smith	73-71-73-217 +4
Brendan Steele	68-76-73-217 +4
Luke List	70-70-77-217 +4
Keegan Bradley	72-71-73-218 +5
DeChambeau	75-70-73-218 +5
Si Woo Kim	71-72-75-218 +5
Kishenji Aghibarnat	74-71-74-219 +6
Rafa Cabrera Bello	74-70-76-220 +7
Beau Hossler	73-70-77-220 +7



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Tiger Woods watches his putt on the 18th hole during the third round of the British Open on Saturday in Carnoustie, Scotland.

Woods creates buzz at Carnoustie

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Jordan Spieth has a share of the lead in the British Open and a big edge in experience. Still only 24, he already has won three majors and his name is the last one etched on the base of the silver claret jug.

One name in the mix makes it all feel so new.

"I've always wanted to battle it out in a major with Tiger. Who hasn't?" Spieth said after seizing upon a calm Carnoustie for a 6-under 65 to tie for the lead with Kevin Kisner and Xander Schauffele. "It's kind of a dream come true just to have the opportunity."

Woods feels the same way. Never in the mix at the Masters, gone by the weekend at the U.S. Open, the 14-time major champion surged into contention Saturday with a 66, his lowest round on weekend at a major in eight years.

He didn't have the best score. He was four shots behind.

But he's Tiger Woods, and it felt like that again to thousands of fans who crammed along the fairways and behind the greens as Woods ran off three straight birdies around the turn and then two-putted for birdie on the par-5 14th to work his way into a tie for the lead, even if that lasted for only 20 minutes.

"I've shown that I've been there close enough with a chance to win this year," Woods said. "Given what happened the last few years, I didn't know if that would ever happen again. But here I am with a chance coming Sunday in a major championship. It's going to

be fun."

It was every bit of that on Saturday, a rare day when Carnoustie had little defense.

Justin Rose, who made the cut on the number with a birdie on his final hole, matched the Carnoustie record for the Open with a 64. Spieth set the tone in the afternoon when he decided on the way to the first tee to hit driver on the 396-yard hole. He sent it bouncing and rolling along the firm turf, down a hill and onto the green to about 10 feet away for an eagle.

Moments later, Woods began his charge to get into contention at a major for the first time in five years.

It never stopped. Seven players had a share of the lead at one point. Kisner, who started the third round tied for the lead, was never far away but had to work hard to stay there. He made a tough par save on the 17th, and then got up-and-down from behind the 18th green for a 68.

Schauffele, the PGA Tour rookie of the year last season, holed a 30-foot putt from behind the 18th green for a 67.

They were at 9-under 204.

"We've got pretty much a new tournament tomorrow," Spieth said.

A dozen players were separated by four shots, which is nothing considering that the last two British Open champions at Carnoustie rallied from 10 shots (Paul Lawrie) and six shots (Pdraigh Harrington) on the final day.

The wind is expected to be the strongest it has been all week. And then there's the presence of Woods, playing in the third-to-last group.

Woods started quietly enough

with a few birdies through eight holes. He started his move with a 40-foot birdie putt on No. 9, followed with short birdie putts on the next two holes and with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 14th, he put his name atop the leaderboard.

It was there for only 20 minutes. But it was there.

A bogey on the 16th and a par save from short of the Barry Burn on the 18th gave him a 66. He figured it would at least keep him in range. He wound up as close to the lead as he has been in a major since he was two behind at Muirfield in the 2013 British Open.

"I'm right there," he said. "I've got a chance at this, which is great."

And he has company. Kevin Chappell, who spent most of his round watching Spieth putt on a show, birdied the 18th for a 67 and was two shots behind.

Francesco Molinari had a 66 and will play in the third-to-last group with Woods. They were last together three weeks ago when Woods presented him the trophy at the Quicken Loans National after Molinari shot 62 for an eight-shot victory.

Twelve players were separated by four shots, a group that includes Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood and Zach Johnson. They all dropped shots on a day when there was no time to be going backward. McIlroy was within two shots of the lead until bogeys on two of his last three holes for a 70 left him four behind.

Johnson, staying in the same house as Kisner, Spieth and four other Americans, hooked his approach on No. 12 and three-putted for a double bogey. He shot 72 and was in the group four behind.

Joining them was Tommy Fleetwood, who dropped three shots in two holes on the back nine on his way to a 71.

Of the five players separated by three shots, only Spieth has experience winning a major. He will try to become the first player since Pdraigh Harrington in 2008 to win golf's oldest championship in consecutive years.

His move started with a sudden decision.

The opening hole is 396 yards on the card, with the fairway getting narrow between two bunkers. Spieth, who spent Saturday morning watching the Open on television, asked caddy Michael Greller on the practice range, "Do we like driver?"

Greller told him no. Play short and it's a wedge to a front pin, easy birdie chance.

Spieth walked to the tee with coach Cameron McCormick and asked him, "How about I just sent it on No. 1?"

"I felt good about the range session. And he's like, 'I put my chips behind anything you decide, always.' And that kind of gave me that little extra boost," Spieth said.

He stuffed his approach to 2 feet on No. 4 and made two short birdie putts until he came to the par-3 16th, when his 5-iron settled 12 feet away for his longest putt of the day.

This is the 16th time he has been in at least a share of the lead in the majors in the five years he has been playing them on a regular basis. And it's the first time he has had to look over his shoulder at Woods.



JON SUPER/AP

Francesco Molinari plays out of the rough on the 2nd hole during the third round of the British Open on Saturday in Carnoustie, Scotland.

SPORTS

THE OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIP

Woods makes charge

Tiger seeks first major victory
in a decade » Page 31

NASCAR



ELIZABETH FRANTZ, THE CONCORD MONITOR/AP

Driver Brad Keselowski makes a pit stop during the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., on Saturday. With race attendance and TV viewership dwindling to record lows, drivers are lobbying NASCAR to change things up in an effort to lure fans back.

Pushing for change

Drivers lobby NASCAR to shake things up amid record low attendance

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — NASCAR has been reluctant to make more than modest tweaks to its schedule. That hasn't stopped its drivers this summer from wondering about possibilities in hopes of luring more fans:

- a Cup race on Eldora dirt.
- more races at short tracks.
- no more multiple races at the same track.
- try lowa; go back to Rockingham.

The idea of blowing up a schedule that has largely remained unchanged for most of the last decade is hardly a novel idea, and drivers have long lobbied NASCAR to try something new and mix things up

over the staid summer months.

Denny Hamlin, a 31-time Cup winner, mulled over a few potential schedule shake-ups until he splashed cold water on the campaigning.

"None of this is ever going to happen," Hamlin said. "Not until these tracks and NASCAR get together and are willing to make changes."

That seems unlikely in the immediate future for a variety of reasons — from sanctioning agreements with tracks that run through 2020 to safety upgrades and even the threat of litigation should a track lose a race.

The sport has resisted even such fan-friendly schedule changes, like running weeknight races or rotating the site of All-Star weekend.

"It's going to have to take someone way high up

saying, 'We're making changes and this is what we're going to do,' for it to happen," Hamlin said. "But it definitely won't happen in the next few years until that contract's over with."

One of the few fun additions over the last decade came when NASCAR added a Truck Series race on the half-mile Eldora Speedway dirt track in Ohio. The series made its annual stop on the dirt this week for the only time this season. Retired NASCAR

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Denny Hamlin looks out from the garage Saturday in Loudon, N.H.

MARY SCHWALM/AP

Verlander ends winless skid, routs Angels » MLB, Page 29

